


The Book Reviews of Chester Cuthbert

Canadian authors

A-Z



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Adams, Ian

S: Portrait of a Spy; Toronto, Virgo Press (#929528, front cover; #920528, back cover); Appendices 196p.

My interest in this book is marginal. Adams wrote a science fiction novel, then a book called The Poverty Wall; became a member of the Senate Committee on Poverty and was one of four of the staff who resigned because they felt that the report would be biased, and who wrote The Real Poverty Report published in advance of the Senate Report on Poverty in Canada. So my real interest is in Adams rather than in international secret service and the RCMP.

This "novel" was suppressed because of a libel action against Adams by Bennett, who alleged that he was identified with "S". It appears that Peter Worthington, publisher of the Toronto Sun, originated in Bennett's mind the allegation of identity.

The "novel" is apparently an investigation carried on over a period of a few years by Adams and which indicated that Bennett was a triple agent, working as head of the RCMP SS, but employed also by the CIA and the KGB. A "stud" who remained a bachelor, he was lover of an enticing woman who was employed as a translator, but was murdered after she had intrigued Adams, but before he could obtain much information from her.

The conclusions of Adams support his allegation that the Trudeau government is no less corrupt than the American or any other government, and that political expediency is paramount, rather than the welfare of the nation. This conclusion supports the subsidiary conclusion that the quashing of the "mincome" program in Manitoba, and the delaying of the guaranteed annual income recommended by the Senate Committee on Poverty, are political decisions rather than economic, and that power and the moneyed interests are still supremely in control of government decisions. These are my own thoughts, and are not mentioned in the book, although Adams does mention that government employees are not going to forfeit their \$20,000 a year jobs by bucking these powers as he and his three colleagues did when they resigned from their jobs with the Senate Committee.

I had thought that Adams might be willing to manage a book business for the sake of financial security, but this book indicates that he is now involved in matters far too big, and in circles far too important for him to be satisfied with a quiet life. I have therefore decided to see if Linda Ross-Mansfield and her husband can handle the books.

Algie, James (1857-1928) (See Lloyd, Wallace pseud)

Allen, Grant

Linnet: A Romance; London, Grant Richards, 1898; 394p.

A Tyrolese cowgirl falls in love with an English poet, but not until she has married the wirth of her native village does he realize that he loves her well enough to marry her. A wealthy American widow also loves the poet Will Deverill and never quite gives up her hope that Will's love for Linnet will fade and give her a chance; she befriends Will and Linnet even after Will's critic friend Florian has betrayed them in hopes of getting Linnet into his own power after Rue, the American has discouraged his fortune-seeking.

Andreas Hausberger, the wirth, is portrayed as seeking wealth and power by building up Linnet's ability as a singer and securing her by marriage only for that purpose. Andreas uses the priests of the Catholic church to assist him in controlling Linnet, but after an act of cruelty following Linnet obtaining a letter proving Andreas' infidelity with Philippina another cowgirl whose sexual adventures are light and carefree, Linnet leaves him and goes to Will. Will endeavors to have his sister offer the protection of her home, but as the wife of a curate, the sister refuses and Rue comes to the rescue. The Church is again invoked by Andreas, however, and Linnet surrenders to her duty as a wife, but refusing Andreas sexually. This I cannot understand in view of her subservience to the Church, and my own sympathies were more with Rue than with Linnet.

A Tyrolese Robbler, Franz Lindner, who had claimed Linnet for his own, becomes a London stage entertainer, but never forgives Andreas for stealing her, and ultimately kills Andreas in their home town, thus freeing Linnet for Will. Previously, he has killed a gambler and mind-reader Joaquin Holmes, an American whose temporary blindness and that of his family had enabled him to sharpen his sense of touch to a magical degree. Two chapters 22 & 23 are devoted to Holmes, and are very interesting as an indication of the possibilities of preternatural sensitivity and quick observation in the art of prophesying or mind-reading. The author's impatience with the credulity of occultists is made clear in these chapters and in incidental references otherwise made in the book; also in his disgust with the power of the church over its adherents through superstition.

This is a good novel, but not a fantasy. The author shows himself to be an educated gentleman, cosmopolitan and aware of social values.

Philistia; A New Edition; London, Chatto & Windus, 1885
317p.

Three sons of Lady Le Breton, the daughter of a rural grocer, a curate who relinquishes his cloth in order to become a composer of light opera, a German communist and his 40-year old daughter, a humbug school-director, the shoe-maker father of the composer, and the daughter of a nobleman, constitute the chief characters of this novel portraying British society and thought in the late nineteenth century.

The oldest son, educated like the second at Oxford, is engaged in a serious flirtation with a girl who seeks to escape the trammels of her Methodist home. Friendly with the brother of the girl whom his second brother marries, they go on a mountain-climbing expedition, where the girl's brother slips and is killed with two guides in a fall. The second brother is a communist who is rigidly devoted to his conscience and cannot compromise with the environment from which he must make his living; his constitution is weakened by the struggle, and when his newspaper leaders are edited to destroy his meaning, he burns the check in payment, even though his wife and baby need money. Later he "sells out", but the daughter of the nobleman, who loves him, arranges that he shall write a book about slum life; this succeeds and he becomes editor of a socialistic paper, regains his health, and leaves his younger brother free to marry the girl flirted by his older brother. The nobleman's daughter marries the composer.

Allen in this novel portrays the contrast between the life of the rich nobility and that of the poor socialist, and shows his sympathy with the poor. He implies that the rich have no right to their holdings; that they do not discharge their social responsibilities; and that they are blind to the human needs of the poor.

Somewhat verbose, but extremely well-written, this novel is a cultured man's forerunner to the social writings of Jack London, and may have influenced London to research and write his "The People of the Abyss".

There is only one incident in this novel which might be considered fantastic: the youngest brother has a feeling of being "guided" and saves the girl his oldest brother flirted from suicide by drowning, later marrying her. "Divine" guidance of this kind is unrationalized.

Anonymous (Basil King)

The Inner Shrine: A Novel of Today; New York, Grosset & Dunlap; Illustrated; (May, 1909; 1908, 1909, Harper & Brothers) 356p.

On Page 30 of CDM SF & F, this novel is listed under the heading "Fantasy and Weird Tales." It is neither. It is a society novel of customs and manners, of honor and dishonor.

Wishing to provide a lavish setting for his beautiful French-Irish wife, George Eveleth gambles to support an extravagant life-style, and when rumors of his wife's misbehavior reach him, challenges the detractor to a duel, committing suicide when he realizes that his opponent has fired into the air.

His wife Diane believes he has died in defense of her honor, but is told by George's mother that he was ruined financially, and that they are destitute apart from a small private income of Diane's. Diane arranges with a remote relative that her income be transferred to her mother-in-law, and goes with her from Paris to New York, looking for a position through which she can become self-supporting. The relative's nephew, seeking a governess for his adolescent daughter, engages her, falls in love with her and asks her to marry him, but leaves for a business trip to South America. Returning, he meets on shipboard the man who survived the duel, who repeats the slander against Diane.

Diane saves Derek Pruyn's daughter from elopement, with the help of a girl who loves the dishonorable Marquis, who confesses having lied, thus expiating himself. All parties are admitted to the "Inner Shrine" of peace and understanding by mutual love.

The senior Mrs. Eveleth becomes aware by intuition of her son's problems and the danger of a duel; and another character is also made aware of a tense situation by intuition. Otherwise there is no element of fantasy in this novel, and these are not in any way different from women's intuition as factors in mundane life, so do not categorize this novel as fantasy.

A copy of this file note is being sent to John Bell, with my recommendation that this novel should be deleted from any revision of the bibliography.

Anthology

Canadian Plays from Hart House Theatre; Edited by Vincent Massey: Volume II; Toronto, The Macmillan Company of Canada Limited, 1927 193p.

Contents.

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The first is a play involving Indian characters. The Priestess of the God of Gods has grown old and is to be replaced by Suiva a girl of the tribe. Suiva's mother has sold her, and she may be destined for the son of the tribal chief, as Waning Moon the old Priestess is a drunken skeptic whose chief interest is her own advantage. Yellow Snake, a singer who loves Suiva, is killed with an arrow in the back shot by the chief's son. The chief disowns his son when he finds out what has happened, but when Suiva learns of the death of her lover, she joins him in the pool.

The second is a tragedy of a hen-pecked husband who is urged by friends to assert his independence. Doing so, he murders his wife, then holds his friends in the path of a flood caused by a disappointed girl.

The third is a comedy of an M.P. who, after succeeding in getting a bill passed, forbids villagers to use a right-of-way across his property which has been theirs for 150 years. A modern girl foists herself on him as his first secretary, promises the villagers that she will arrange that they may have their right-of-way; but the early return of the M.P. frustrates her plan, and she accepts dismissal. The M.P. at the close of the play realizes that he has lost a valuable secretary; his son has fallen in love with her but she has refused his offer of marriage; his family has been disrupted by her advent.

Barrington, E.

"The Empress of Hearts"; New York, Dodd, Mead & Company, 1928; 300 pp

This is a romantic version of the affair of Queen Marie Antoinette's diamond necklace. It is of interest to fantasy fans only because of Cagliostro, who is a minor character, portrayed as a charlatan and confederate of Jeanne de la Motte-Valois who engineered the swindle. Cagliostro is introduced on page 70.

It might be suggested that this novel, which suggests only the fraudulent use of supernatural faculties, could be the introduction to Dumass' trilogy about Cagliostro, and to the occult freemasonry he claimed to head as ^{Grand} Grand Cagliostro.

From OPUS 4, published about 1952 by W. Max Keasler, p. 24, an article by Marion Zimmer Bradley reviewing fanzines called "Crying in the Sink" says:

TLMA--Little Monsters, you know who

As usual the best of the crop...Manly Bannister gives a well-considered article on dowsing, which should not be shrugged off, as Bannister has been extremely scientific in conducting his experimentations, and his veracity and accuracy are unimpeachable. We reserve judgment on his premises, but we know he's telling the truth as he sees it, and nerts to those who try to dismiss him for a hoax. Fandom should be extremely proud at numbering among its members a genuine clairvoyant whose honesty is unquestionable.

Bedford-Jones, H.

Saint Michael's Gold; New York, A. L. Burt Co. (Putnam
1926) 314p.

A light romantic historical adventure novel, this is well-written and interesting, the early part bringing in Tom Paine, Danton, Marat, and Robespierre as minor characters.

Martin is denounced for having assisted some aristocratic women to escape, and with the help of Rabaut, an aristocrat who has assumed the role of commissioner for the rebels, escapes Paris and assists Marie de Rohan disguised as a boy to rescue her brother from Mont St. Michael where he had been held prisoner, but only by agreeing to aid Rabaut to steal the religious gold and jewels. A half-mad persecutor of priests, another aristocrat who plays the part of executioner by the sword, peasants and soldiers, inn-keepers, and other stock characters play minor parts, keep the story moving.

Incidents such as Marie invoking the aid of heaven by praying up a lightning storm which kills Rabaut on board ship and his rising apparently from the dead to say something about Michael, might be sufficient to bring this story into the field of fantasy. There is little of permanent value in the book, however.

Nobody Owns th Earth; Toronto, Anansi (1971,Bissett) 91p

Bissett discards normal rules of spelling in favor of his own artificial rules, to which he adheres, so that he is fundamentally a conformist, but consciously a rebel. I can find no depth of thought or any particular felicity in expression in his poetry, although the volume of his publications is indicative of energy, and, it may be, of talent to those better qualified than I to recognize it.



Blais, Marie-Claire

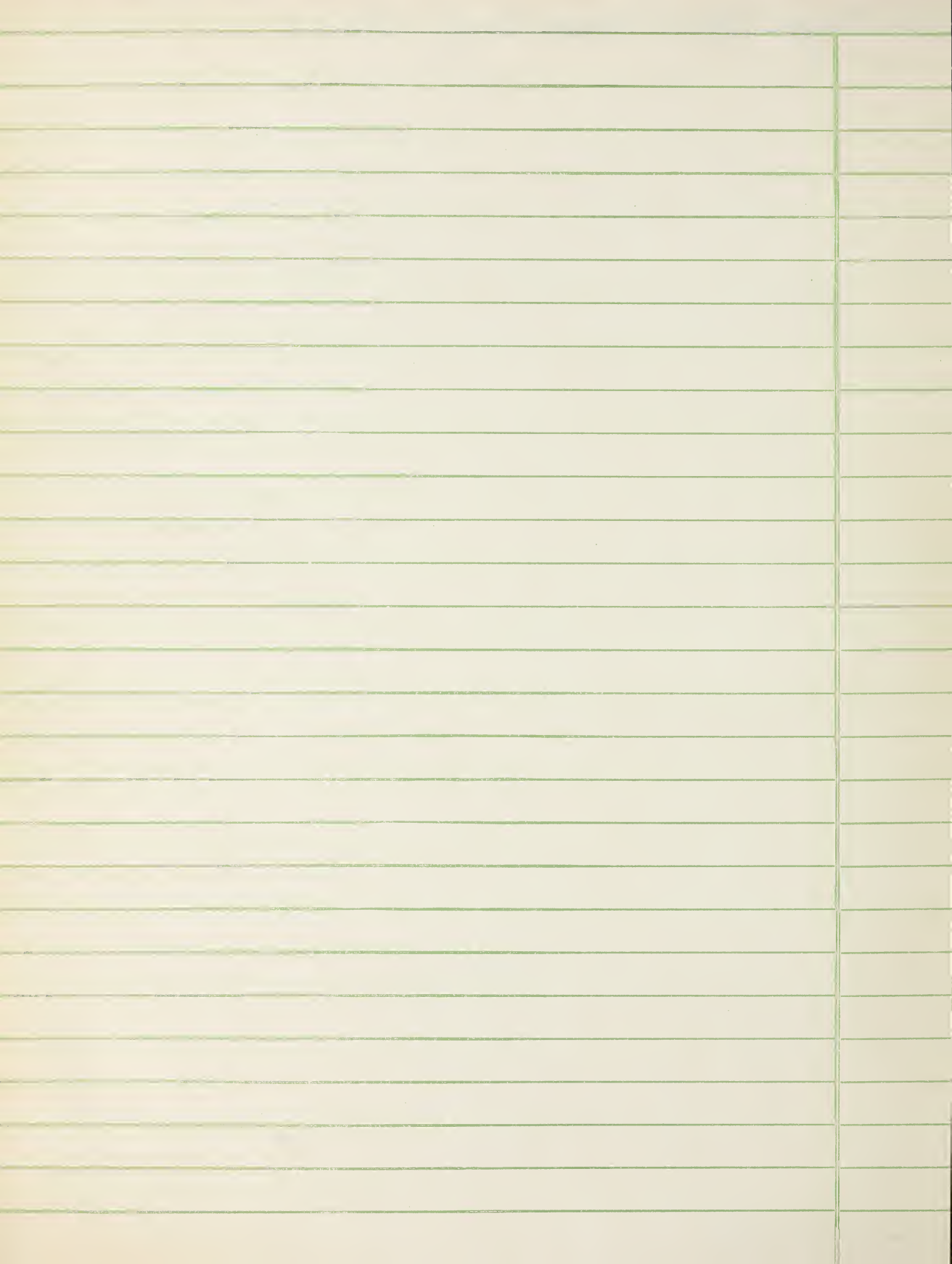
St. Lawrence Blues: A Novel; Translated from the French
by Ralph Manheim; New York, Farrar, Straus and Giroux, 1974
229p.

The jacket blurb gives a more impressive outline of this novel than I would write. I cannot give it the importance attributed to it by the blurb writer.

It is the story of low-life riff-raff of Montreal caught in a blizzard, and told by Abraham Lemieux, an orphan just unemployed from a rubber company who has laid off a worker at 60 to avoid having to pay him a pension. The author seems to center her attention on sex deviants as characters, and one wonders if future societies will be classified by their sexual orientations rather than by race or creed.

Although reasonably well written, I could not find in this novel material of sufficient importance to warrant my keeping it permanently. It may be an accurate representation of a limited segment of Montreal's population, but does not appeal to me in any way.

nnur, Margerie (Mrs. C. Malcolm Lowry) Canadian



Bonner, Marguerite

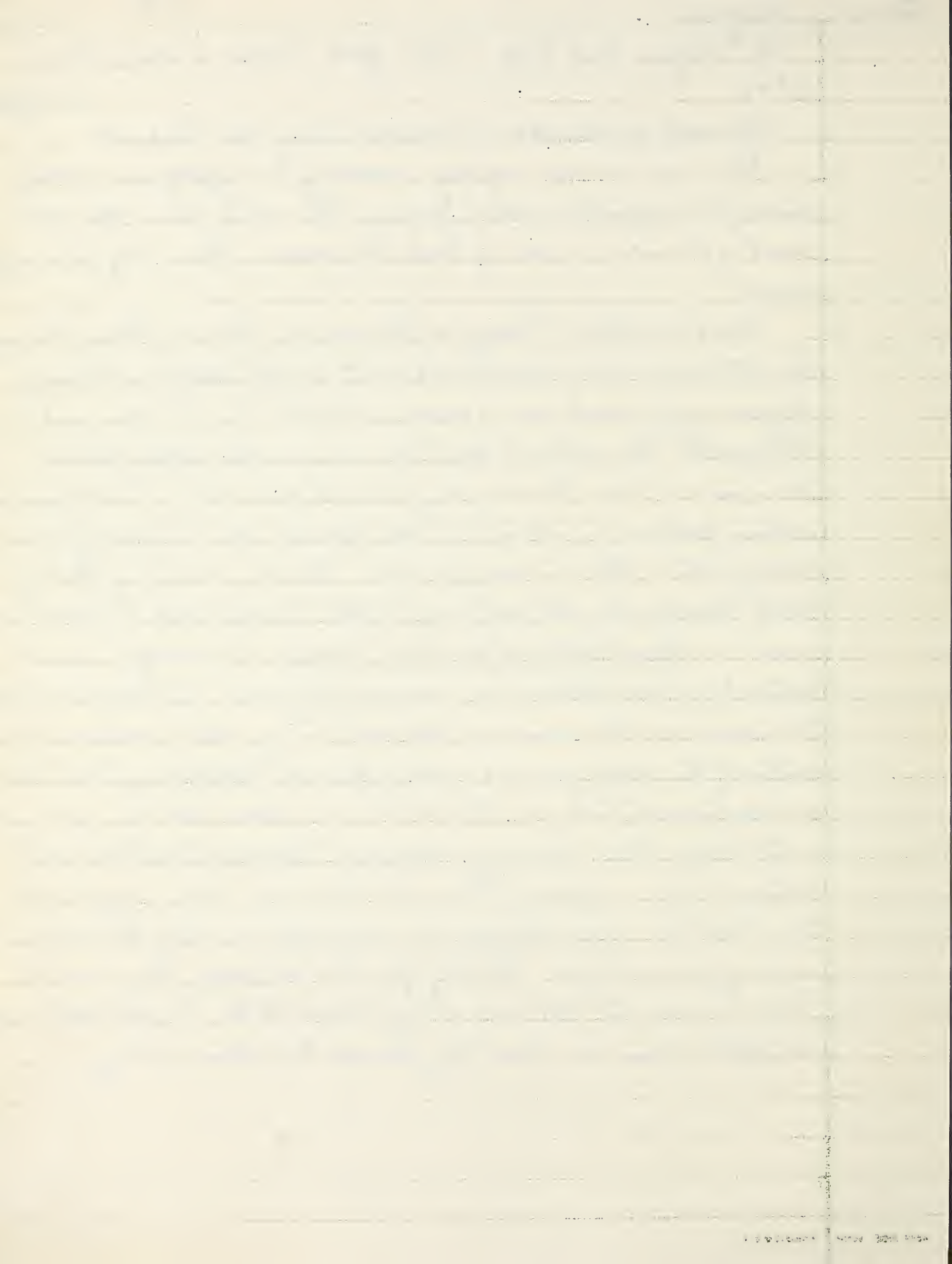
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"The Shapes that Creep"; New York, Charles Scribner's Sons,
1946 202 pp

This book is dedicated to 'Malcolm Lowry, her husband.

It is a murder mystery involving a cryptogram which leads to a quarter million fortune. The scene is on the west coast of Canada, north of North Vancouver. It is only an average novel.

"About the Author": Marguerite Bonner was born in Adrian, Michigan. She attended local schools and went to art school in Chicago, preparing for work as a commercial artist. In 1914 she went to Hollywood. Her sister at that time was in the motion picture business and Miss Bonner played small girl roles in miscellaneous western pictures in which she rode horses, was rescued by brave cowboys etc. After working for film studios, including that of Walt Disney, where she did some of the research work on costumes used in Snow White and the Seven Dwarfs, she worked for several Western Coast Radio Stations on various programs. In 1940 she went to Vancouver and there married Malcolm Lowry, also a writer and the author of the highly praised novel of the sea Ulamarine. Miss Bonner and her husband lived from 1940 to 1944 in a house that they had bought on the Pacific Coast not many miles from Vancouver. The house was destroyed by fire in June of 1944 and the two writers barely escaped with their lives. Mr. Lowry lost parts of manuscripts on which he had been working for several years. Shortly after this catastrophe they moved to Eastern Canada, but both intend to get back to the Pacific Coast and rebuild the house in which they planned to do their writing.



Brooker, Bertram

The Robber: A Tale of the Time of the Herods; Toronto,
Collins (1949) 307p.

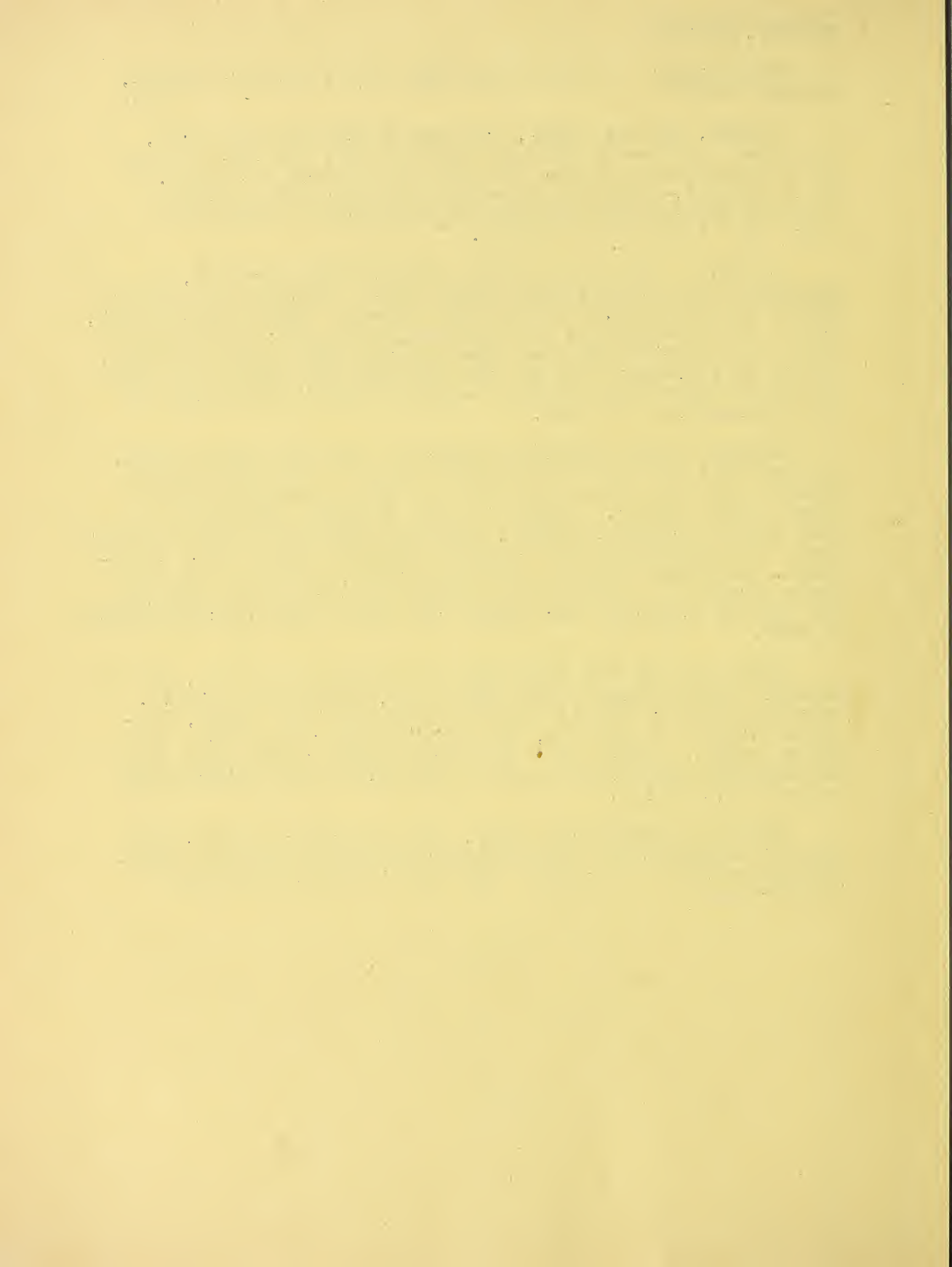
Jeshua, son of a rabbi, has been a rebel all his life, and takes the name of Barabbas when he robs the rich to give to the poor thus striving for his goal to make men equal. He is wounded, leaving him scarred of face; and is saved by John the Baptist who appoints him emissary to Antipas who fears that John will be killed.

Barabbas visits his boyhood friend Judas Iscariot, a hunchback whose frailty has always been a contrast to Jeshua's height and strength, and who sells spices. Judas loves Jerith, sister of Prince Joseph of Arimathea, hopelessly; and Barabbas falls in love with her also when he meets her and her brother. Joseph is persuaded that he must renounce his wealth and give all to the poor when Barabbas refuses Joseph's patronage in approaching Herod Antipas.

Antipas gives Barabbas a sword to help him protect John, and Barabbas enlists men including Arabs to help him battle towards power to change the lives of men by overthrowing the power of the Herods. Antipas's wife Herodias, knowing his lust for her daughter Salome, persuades Salome to ask for John's head; and succeeds before Barabbas receives word of the occurrence. Barabbas fails to capture Antipas, and thus fails to place himself in a position to carry out his plan to persuade the Jews to overthrow the Herods and have a just rule proclaimed by Rome.

Judas has all his life been looking for a miracle, and in madness betrays Jesus to the Sanhedrin, then hangs himself. Barabbas sees two of his captains crucified with Jesus, discloses himself to the mob, and is killed by a daggerman and a thrown stone. Joseph and his sister Jerith decide that only by accepting love as the road to salvation will mankind ever overcome its faults.

This is a historical novel, not fantastic; and the only fantasy incidents are the prophetic undertones and the superstitions common to the age. The book is well-written and interesting.



Sick Heart River; London, Hodder and Stoughton Limited
(1941) 718p.

This book is listed on Page 26 of CDN BF & F, under the heading "Fantasy and Weird Tales". I think it does the author an injustice to classify the book in this way; in fact, I can think of few books so earnestly aimed at the realities of life in Canada's northland and in general.

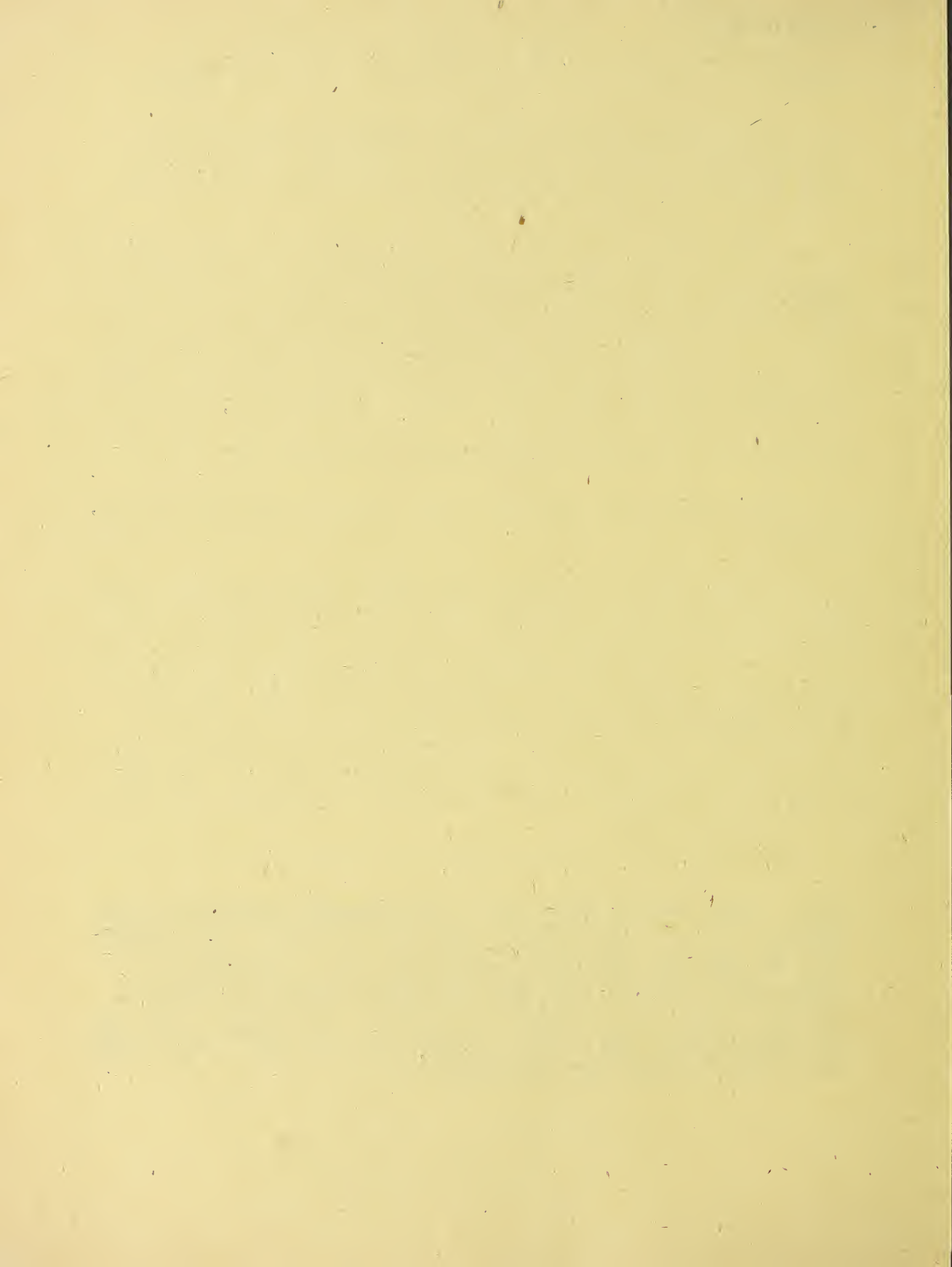
I grant that there are elements of fantasy in this novel: two men temporarily mad; a remote valley, lush with vegetation but devoid of animal life; the superstitions of a degenerate Indian tribe; the possibility of sustaining life in a man after the highest medical opinion had given him a year or so only to live; and the mystical and religious reflections of people with reference to living and dying. But I am sure that Buchan did not intend any of these to designate his book a fantasy: these are treated just as they often occur in mundane life, and his whole aim, in my opinion, was to justify as admirable the life and death of his chief character, Sir Edward Leithen. To consider the book a fantasy would detract from this aim.

Buchan wrote many fantasies, both novels and short stories, and could easily have made this book a fantasy if that had been his aim.

Leithen, suffering fatally from tuberculosis caused by his having been gassed in the first World War, undertakes to search for a brilliant French-Canadian financier who has disappeared. Galliard has forsaken the roots of his nature and heritage, and is in danger of breakdown unless he can re-establish these, and heads, under guidance of a French-Canadian veteran, for Sick Heart River, rumored to be a paradise of the north. Both men become obsessed with this mystical search until they are mad. With the help of a brother of the guide, Leithen rescues both, and with signs of his own returning health, renounces the possibility of lengthening his life by administering the recovery to mental and physical health of a village of Indians otherwise doomed to extinction.

This is a fine, serious novel, not a fantasy.

Note: After reading this novel I read Angels' Shoes and Other Stories by M. L. C. Pickthall. The ninth story in that collection is entitled "The Third Generation" is a weird tale depicting the fateful fulfilment of vengeance on a descendant of a white man who had, by exposing an Indian village to smallpox, annihilated it, in the valley of a river containing no life and only the ruins of the Indian settlement. This river might well be compared with that of this novel, and the story as an example of how Buchan could have fantasized it.



Chamish, Barry

The Devil Wore an Angel's Suit; Winnipeg, Split Level
Publishing House, no date (1972) 138p.

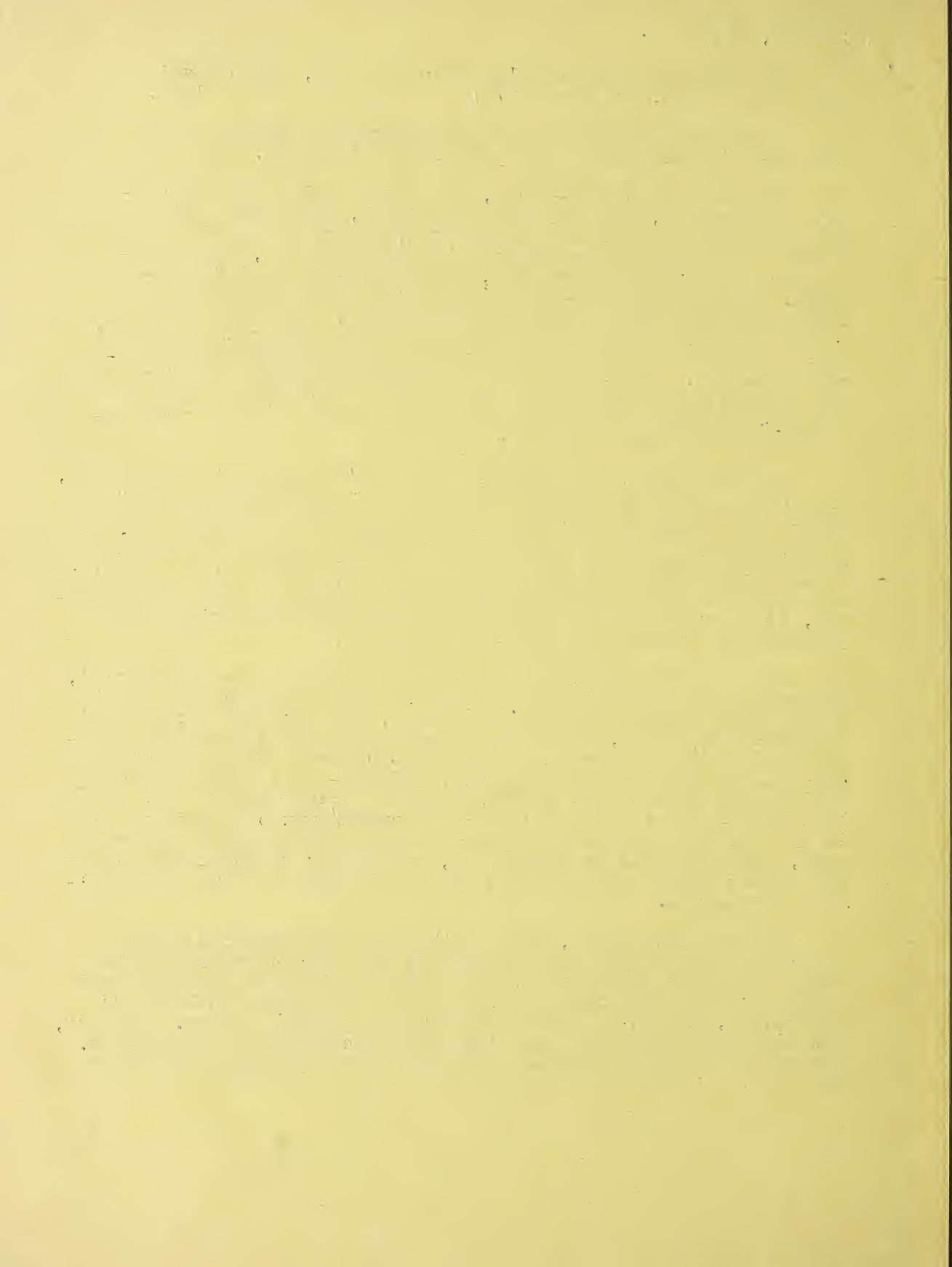
I arranged for the author to autograph my copy of this book when I purchased it and some others from him.

Probably autobiographical, but more likely to be pseudo-autobiographical, and of novelette length, this book lacks both the form and the plot of a novel, and consists of a narrative of experiences at school and university, first sexual encounters and experiments, and "hash"-oriented friendships. The use of four-letter words implies a struggle to obtain release from repressive inhibitions, and creates in the reader the usual impression that the author does not understand the need for good taste in literary expression and also in social contacts. The girls encountered appear never to object to this language as used by the protagonist Bruce Cahan and his friends, and the reader might infer that his circle of acquaintance included few from polite society.

Inspired possibly by books like Roth's "Portnoy's Complaint", the author portrays Bruce as seeking sexual expression by any means available and with little regard for the welfare of those sharing his experiences. This may logically have resulted from Bruce's early contacts with others who were similarly seeking satisfaction without consideration for him. Though it is possible to attribute errors to Bruce who tells the story in the first person, it is more likely that misspellings like "plagerism" and grammatical errors were made by the author.

Although the discussions between characters are superficial, and many of the relationships between characters lack the depth which would justify sexual involvement, the style of narration is humorous and direct, the dialogue and incidents support the "hippie" life led by Bruce and lend philosophical grounds for his conclusions about life and people. Middle-class Jewish homelife is inferred rather than described as the background for the scenes laid in Winnipeg; and a distaste for ~~bourgeois~~ bourgeois values is not replaced by anything higher except the desire to write a book, not for artistic expression, but simply to obtain the money and status which might attract beautiful women and make them willing sycophants.

Despite its faults, this book's redeeming features are a sufficient indication that the author may produce future works worthy of wider circulation. I am reasonably sure that he would agree with my view that this is merely an exercise in literary expression, and not a serious attempt to create a story. In fact, its main value may have been its cathartic effect on the author. Whether any similar advantage to any reader may ensue is rather doubtful.



From SUPERMANCON SOUVENIR PROGRAMME & COMBOZINE of the Second Manchester Science Fiction Convention, 1954 (Space Diversions 7a; Science Tit-Bits by Lewis J. Conway, Reprinted from S.D. #3 (October 1952): Time Distortion & Non-Motor Learning):

In Science-fiction; this phenomenon of non-motor learning has been used in numerous stories as a means of education of the inhabitants of alien planets, or occasionally of teaching our hero the language and history of the world he is visiting. In short, it is a method of instilling knowledge quickly and easily without the normal labour entailed in this process. The subject is usually rendered unconscious, then by the use of ray mechanisms, or by some similar means, the knowledge is transmitted to his memory, and on awakening after a relatively short interval of time he 'remembers' the history, language etc., of the civilization.

That this is by no means impossible, or even improbable is illustrated by an article which appeared in "Science" May 2nd, 1952, entitled "Time distortion in hypnosis and non-motor learning" by Cooper and Rogers of Washington, D. C., USA.

By "time distortion" is meant a marked difference between the seeming duration of a time interval and its actual duration as measured by the clock. Evidence was presented which indicated that: 1) In especially trained subjects, time sense can be altered to a predetermined degree by hypnotic suggestion. These subjects can have an amount of subjective experience under these conditions that is more nearly commensurate with the subjective time involved, than with world or absolute time. This activity, although seeming to proceed at a natural rate as far as the subject is concerned, actually takes place with great rapidity relative to world time. 2) The continuity of these experiences during relative time is good. 3) Thought, under time distortion, although apparently proceeding at a normal rate from the subject's point of view, can take place with great rapidity, relative to world time. Such thought may be superior in certain respects to waking thought. Thus, apparently, "time" can be given to a hypnotized subject and he can use this time for various mental activities.

Very briefly, the method they used for these experiments was as follows: The same subject was used to compare two methods of learning nonsense material. In one, he employed certain learning techniques while awake, in the other, he employed the same techniques in the hallucinated world, under conditions of time distortion while in the trance state. The material for learning was two series of 150 paired letter groups of three letters each. The task was to learn to give correctly, within three seconds, the second group in the pair in response to the first group, i.e., CGJ --QXH.

The results of the experiment show that, 1) The accuracy of learning was much better in the trance state. 2) The clock time required in the trance state was only a fraction of that required in the waking state, although it appeared to the subject that he had plenty of time for study, i.e., his subjective time was more than adequate. This indicates that the learning time could have been even further reduced.

As a logical consequence of these experiments, we may assume that the world of tomorrow will be a much happier place

for school children anyway. Education need only occupy one hour per day, or even less, and in that period, children will learn more than we now learn in a week. Homo sapiens may still be homo superior, without the need of mutation as a magic wand.

Cowper, E. E.

Witch of the Wilds: A Story of Adventure in the Northern Snows; London, etc., Thomas Nelson and Sons, Ltd., n.d. 312p. frontispiece by R. H. Brock

This is an adventure story for girls, and the Witch is a tall white woman with some Indian blood who has occupied an island called Windigo or Wendigo and makes the call of the loon to guide her dogs and Indians. She is rumored to be able to prophesy the future, but apart from this and the use of the Windigo legend, there is no element of fantasy in the book.

This book is a sequel to "Girls on the Gold Trail", and "Pete" and her brother Jim seek to establish a trapping base, find the Windigo Island, establish and call their own a cave and cabin, but are driven out by the witch, who acts as their friend but is very capricious. Pete and Jim help an enslaved English girl to escape from a "con" renegade, and it is the adventures involved which make the story.

Not very well written, and indicating an English authoress, this book might still be called a good adventure book for girls.



Crawford, Terry

The Werewolf Miracles; Toronto (?) Oberon Press (1976,
Crawford) 96p.

The publishers' blurb describes the contents of this volume as poems. Possibly they may be considered as prose poems; I am not qualified to judge. My own impression is that reminiscences are interwoven with an account of an automobile accident, and the emotional impact of seeing a werewolf movie as a child.

Although there is some good writing in this volume, I do not consider it to be important in any respect, despite the claims of the publisher. Also, although the claim is made that the entire book deals with miracles, this cannot be said in the sense of interference with the course of natural law, so the book does not, in my opinion, qualify as fantasy fiction or poetry.



Cullum, Ridgwell

The Heart of Unaga; New York and London, G. P. Putnam's
Sons, 1920 441pp.



The Saint of the Speedway; Toronto, McClelland and Stewart (1924, George H. Doran Company) 375p.

Jim Carver and his partner Len Stern, following a suggestion made by Charlie Wun Lee who had seen when shipwrecked on the northwest coast of Australia a fabulous gold strike, find the gold in such quantity that it would kill the market if the richness were known. They hire Julian Caspar to take Jim from port to port on a commission basis, so that Jim may sell the gold in instalments.

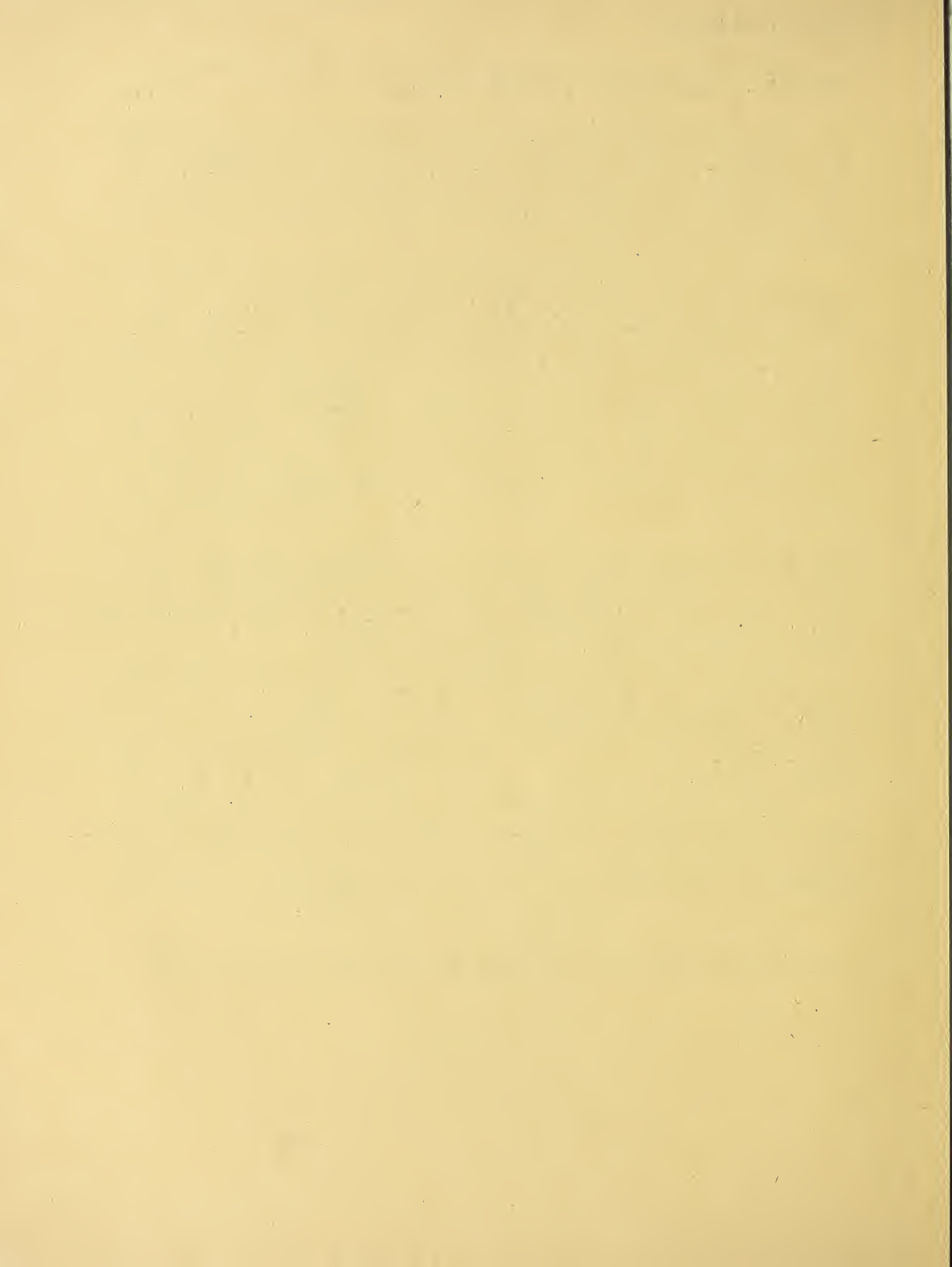
Jim's aim is to relieve his mother and sister of economic distress; but they read of the probable sinking of his ship in a paper supplied them by an oil engineer Ivor McLagan, whose love for St. Claire Carver is not reciprocated. Claire sells the last remaining block of property left by her gambling father for \$10,000, and uses this capital to follow his example and becomes a successful poker player at "The Speedway" a high-class gambling hell in Beacon Glory, Alaska. McLagan's half-breed Eskimo servant sees an abandoned ship entering harbor; on investigating, McLagan sees in sunlight a shadow of Jim Carver which convinces him that Jim was murdered on board the ship. The shadow is visible to anyone under sunlight conditions, and is repeatedly seen, this being the only fantasy element in the book.

Caspar, assuming the name of Cy Liskard, banks Jim Carver's gold with Victor Burns, claiming to have washed it from his claim on the Lias River. Cy's passion for Claire leads him to insult her publicly; McLagan threatens him, and the Aurora Clansmen, a Vigilantes committee headed by McLagan, warns Cy never to return to Beacon Glory, or he will be hanged.

McLagan gets the U. S. Commissioner of Alaska to broadcast the discovery of the abandoned ship under its true name, and Jim's partner Len Stern comes to Alaska to identify Cy as Julian Caspar. McLagan gives Caspar a chance at freedom if he will tell the story of Jim's death and the mystery of the abandoned ship; Caspar tells, then attempts to enter Beacon Glory to claim his credit from Burns, and is hanged by the Clan.

Having been insulted by Cy and pressured by Max Lepende, Italian owner of the Speedway, Claire finds the contrast between these men and McLagan so much in the latter's favor that her liking for him deepens to love, and she promises to marry him. McLagan is instrumental in saving Jim's gold for his partner, and a coal and oil discovery makes his fortune secure.

This is a good adventure novel, with an element of the supernatural sufficient to bring it into the fantasy field.



The Vampire of N'Gobi; Philadelphia, J. B. Lippincott
Company, (1936) 341pp.

This is an excellent "lost race" novel, solidly built with good plot, interesting characterization, good adventure, and apparently with knowledge of the African background.

Lionel Garnet attempts to foil the planting on him of contraband diamonds, is trapped, and serves time as a convict. He hears of the existence of a "mother lode" of gold, a solid reef which is inexhaustible and would make him master of the world's currency. He finds a race of yellow people, marries their queen, and brings up his daughter to be considered the reincarnation of their great original queen who built wonderful highways, temples and a civilization which was greater than that of Egypt, and from which Egypt may have derived.

Col. Richard Farlow gets clues to the existence of the yellow race, who massacre a Government scientific expedition; and he is commissioned to locate these people. The half-breed queen, who has been educated in England and is a beautiful and sensuous woman, determines to make Farlow her king; sends him a map to guide him to her; the map entails the death of Farlow's friend and father of the girl he loves in England, and sets him on the vengeance trail. His adventures in an armored boat, beset by living weeds, the yellow people, and the "White Death" a mysterious creature that sucks life from organisms, are weird; and the descriptions of the roads, buildings, and civilization of the yellow people are vivid.

Farlow spurns Garnet's daughter who has been at cross-purposes with her father over him; has previously warned the authorities to check his story; and when a fleet of aeroplanes comes over the hidden country, Garnet sets off explosives and destroys everything, then commits suicide. His daughter seeks to escape but her plane is destroyed by lightning.

The explosion which drains a lake and causes the drying up of a watercourse, ironically exposes the mother lode of gold which Garnet has spent 40 years seeking.

This book is good enough to be kept permanently in a fantasy collection.



Degler, Claude

From Philcon Memory Book (Lowlights of the Philcon, by Joe Kennedy):

pp.3-4: And then Claude Degler arrived.

In more ways than one, Degler was the mystery man of the convention. By the way, he's now known as John Paul Chrisman. Thinking that the Philcon was scheduled for the 4th of July, he told me later, he arrived two months beforehand. He took up temporary residence in Camden, N.J., and frequented the PSFS where it seems nobody knew him by sight. Under the Chrisman nom de plume, the Cosmic Circle Coordinator used the Prime Press's equipment to publish the first issue of Weird Unsolved Mysteries, devoted to the flying saucers: organized Alta Publications; published The Alta Advertiser; announced that Frank N. Stein would publish Expose and The Damp Thing; began organization of the Central States Science-Fantasy Society; and planned other projects. During the convention, Chrisman was quiet and mild-mannered. In fact, it is the private opinion of yours truly that he was one of the most well-behaved Philcon attendees! Vociferously maintaining his identity as Chrisman, he attempted to squelch rumors during the latter part of the con by wearing a button reading I AM RICHARD S. SHAVER, WHO ARE YOU?

When he arrived, de la Ree made a crack about last seeing him sleeping on the floor at Larry Shaw's place. Chrisman grinned, said nothing. Maddox introduced himself as Raym Washington, but got no reaction other than a free copy of Weird Unsolved Mysteries.

De Mar, Paul (pseudonym of Pearl Foley)

The Gnome Mine Mystery; London, John Hamilton, 1933
255p.

This is a murder mystery novel, poorly plotted and not well constructed, with much mystification and complication for its own sake and not because of its relevance to the story. Austin Maxwell is murdered in New York on New Year's Eve; his nephew Roger Merriton is made half-interest heir in Gnome Mines, Kirkland Lake, Ontario; is convinced without evidence that his uncle's murder is connected with the mine; Rolland St. Lambert and his sister Marcile each have 25% of the remaining interest.

Clyde Brent, a friend and business rival of Maxwell, is the most obvious suspect; but he is a clever manipulator of people and business; Roger is engaged to his daughter Miriam, and ostensibly to facilitate their marriage, but actually to keep Roger away from the mine, Brent offers Roger \$25,000 a year to go to Guatemala as manager of a chicle post.

Roger and St. Lambert obtain promising samples of ore and set up an office from which they try to sell shares in the mine. A rival promoter, behind whom is Brent, foils this by trading worthless shares at an apparent advantage to Gnome Mines shareholders; but is checkmated by the boys who refuse to transfer the treasury stock on the books of the Company, thus making them of value only to the original subscribers. This is not convincingly demonstrated in the story, and I suspect that the author did not know much about either mining companies or the stock market.

Roger ultimately realizes that Brent's daughter is conditioned to her wealthy New York environment and unsuited to share the realities of life in the north country with him. The author, obviously in an effort to show that Marcile is a true adventurous comrade, involves her in a ridiculous role of discovering a lead to the solution of the mystery. It turns out that a mining engineer is the actual murderer, but his motivation is obscure; the means he used to achieve his ends is never explained; and the impression I have is that the author hadn't until toward the end of the book made up her mind to switch from Brent as the murderer, and then only because it became apparent that Brent had been the obvious suspect from the start.

Although not uninteresting, this book is deservedly obscure and unimportant. Richard North, the detective of disguises, benevolent intervention, and ultimate identification as Claude Miraux for no useful reason, is anomalous in role, background and efficacy.

The Mermaid; A Love Tale; New York, D. Appleton and Company, 1895 290p.

Caius Simpson, son of a Prince Edward Island farmer, witnesses the wife of a neighboring farmer throw her small girl child into the sea. He attempts to save the child, but cannot find her. The woman is tried, and confined to an asylum.

Years later, Caius is told by an old man that he has seen a mermaid; and following the old man's death, Caius has the same experience; the mermaid beckons to him, he tries to follow her as he loves her face, but she has to save him from drowning.

While staying with his parents after he has acquired a medical education, Caius receives a letter from Mme. Josephine Le Maitre asking him to go immediately to the Magdalen Islands and help fight a diptheria epidemic. Against his father's wishes, and against his own inclination, he goes. He is met by a tenant of Mme. Le Maitre who guides him by way of a sand bar which connects islands at low tide by is dangerous from quicksand to the Island of St. Cloud. A boy who is with the tenant O'Shea turns out to be Mme. Le Maitre, who is mysteriously referred to as both young and middle-aged, and who, in the latter guise wears a nun-like habit and cowl which prevents Caius from identifying her with the mermaid. When, by chance, he does recognise her, she blushes and says that her gestures to him as the mermaid were merely playful; but he declares his early love confirmed by his later close acquaintance with her as his aide in fighting the diptheria epidemic. Their love is hopeless, however, because she was married six years previously to a sea-captain who coveted her inheritance; the marriage was never consummated, and she had asked Le Maitre never to return, but considers herself bound by her marriage vows until his death is confirmed.

O'Shea has told his wife that he would kill Le Maitre if he should return; and when LeMaitre appears, O'Shea and Caius go to meet him; apparently by accident Le Maitre is drowned by O'Shea's error in pushing against an ice floe and tipping LeMaitre out of the boat where the ice closes over him.

Caius returns to his home, and is called to the madwoman's home. She had been released into her husband's custody when it became apparent that her mind was arrested, but is told not to be permitted to associate with weak people or children. Against these orders, Josephine has visited her aunt by whom she is mistaken for her lost baby, now grown to young womanhood. The madwoman, in searching the sea for her child, had manufactured a cylindrical float, buoyed up with wood, cork, and bladders; and Josephine, wearing this invention, has appeared as the mermaid. Called to see her aunt on her deathbed of consumption, Josephine again meets Caius and they are able to marry and forget the past.

There are several scenes in this novel which have weird or supernatural connotations, but all are rationalized, so that this book does not belong in the fantasy field. It is well-written, and interesting.

Dougall, L.

Paths of the Righteous; London, Macmillan and Co.,
Limited, 1908 441p.

A Canadian and his wife wish to endow his nephew with wealth, and settle in an English village to become acquainted with him and his family, and to see if he will use the money worthily. The nephew Compton is a Church of England curate who is convinced that his is the only right way to God, and denounces the Methodists, Baptists and other protestants as dissenters. His wife agrees until she accidentally learns of his uncle's wealth, when she shifts her course to agree with the uncle's.

Her friend Oriane Graham has been estranged from her one love Professor Pye by Compton's lumping her with his other friends to tell Pye that he is not wanted in the village. Pye is a friend of Ward, the wealthy old man, an archaeologist and a minister whose intellectual ability has made him an authority, but who lacks money for scientific expeditions to prove his researches.

Oriane persuades Ward to leave his wealth to Pye, except for 500 pounds monthly to Ethel Compton, shows Compton that his attitude estranges people from his own Church, and at last seems about to be united with Pye.

An artist named Latimer refuses to join the church, and is injured in an accident. Given up to death by three doctors because of irreparable spinal injuries, his retarded boy has faith and gets Ward and a church of England bishop to cure him by faith. This is the only fantasy element in the book, aside from an acknowledgment of the power of telepathy to convey understanding between humans.

The theme of the novel is to make followers of every Christian sect realize that none has a monopoly of the path to God, that there are many paths, and that a true religious belief is independent of creed. The early part of the book has a lightness and humor which make it appear trivial by comparison with others of the author's books, but when the final part of the book ties up the loose ends, it is seen that good people, when convicted of error, will change their ways and try to live up to their enlightenment.

Basically a religious novel, intended for intelligent religious people, this is also an excellent moral tract. It has only the faith healing element of fantasy.

Dougall, L.

What Necessity Knows; New York, Longmans, Green, and
Co., 1893 445p.

Sissy Cameron's father dies and she determines to leave the protection of his farm partner, though he offers to marry her when she is older. Bates refuses her permission to leave so she buries her father in a landslip near their home, and the hired man unwittingly assists her escape in her father's coffin. A railway station agent who accepts the coffin for forwarding sees her emerge from it, but is distracted by a deaf old Adventist preacher, half-mad, who teaches that the second coming of the Lord is imminent.

Alec Trenholme, the station agent, is the heir with his brother of the fortune left by their father, a successful butcher. His brother Robert is a brilliant scholar who has become the chief citizen and Principal of New College, and Rector of the English Church at Chellaston, Quebec; has not disclosed his father's trade; and tries to dissuade Alec, a good butcher, from practising it. Alec argues that he knows the business, takes pride in his work, and might not do as well at anything else.

Robert had courted Sophia Rexford, daughter of a military captain of excellent family, but she had refused him because she felt he had misused his talents for worldly gain and station. She knew nothing of his father. At a mountain-top gathering of adventists who are convinced by the old preacher that the Lord is coming, she inadvertently speaks to Alec, thinking him Robert, comes to love Alec and finally accepts him and his trade, subduing her pride.

Alec had accompanied Bates to Robert Trenholme's home because he had become convinced that Eliza White, at first a domestic with the Rexfords, then manageress for the owner of the local hotel, is Sissy Cameron, whom Bates believed had died of exposure while escaping home. Eliza, at first determined to gain worldly success, at last realizes Bates' sincere love and agrees to marry him.

An American dentist, travelling with a surveying team which discovers asbestos on the Cameron-Bates farm, spreads the rumor that the mad preacher is really old Cameron, thus hoping to get Eliza to admit her identity and accept him as her husband. His love for her is sincere, but she holds out against him, and he leaves town, writing her a note concerning the younger Rexford girls who have flirted shamelessly with him, as friendly warning of the dangers to which they expose themselves.

This is a very good, sincere novel, with the touch of the macabre which distinguishes Miss Dougall's work.

Dougall, Lily

The Zeit-Geist; New York, D. Appleton and Company,
1895 184pp.

Primarily a religious novel outlining the conversion of a drunkard, the story has only one fantasy incident: seeing by the heroine of the spirit of her father at the moment of death. It is very well-written, however, and emphasises the hero's conviction that God is everywhere, with the sinner as well as the saint, in hell as in heaven; and that individuals have to work out their own destiny even though God is with them always.

As a novel of religious faith, this is important; but it is, apart from the incident mentioned above, not classifiable as fantasy.

Duley, Margaret

Highway to Valour; New York, The Macmillan Company,
1941 324p.

An earthquake and tidal wave kill four sisters and the mother and father of Mageila Mischelet, who is the "seventh daughter of a seventh daughter, with healing in her hands and infinite silence on her lips". This being an "Act of God" insurance is said to have been voided; homeless and penniless, she becomes the charge of her grandfather, an old ship-owner. Her illness and shock following the tragedy take from her the capacity to heal, but this is revived when she falls in love with Trevor Morgan, an English civil servant in the Government of Newfoundland, whose headache she relieves on shipboard. He confesses that he is married, and later asks his wife for a divorce, which she refuses when war is declared.

Mageila becomes governess for a six-year old child of a wealthy couple, the Kirkes. Mr. Kirke is an alcoholic who has turned to drugs and has become a living skeleton; Mrs. Kirke is a brilliant and brave woman watching to see that her two grown sons do not acquire her husband's vices but fearing also that they will be absorbed in war. Mageila's life with the Kirkes is probably the most interesting part of the novel, which concludes with Mageila heading for Labrador while Trevor goes to war, their love remaining sexually unfulfilled.

Apart from her gift of healing, which arises as much from Mageila's earthy nature and her communion with natural forces as from the "Seventh daughter" endowment, there is no element of fantasy in this novel. It is the story of a girl who gradually recovers from serious trauma, and is given a new lease on life by love and understanding.

Give Me Your Golden Hand; New York, Farrar, Straus and
Young (1951) 309p.

King George III of England married a Quakeress when he was 16 years old, and by her had a son and a daughter. The son was removed to safety by his mother and her brother when the King married Princess Charlotte Sophia of Mecklenburg-Strelitz, and was brought up as Axford Daigle in France. At the time he was five years old, the group of important men of England who, led by Sir Francis Dashwood (later known as Le Despencer), ~~who~~ operated at Mendenham a "Hell-Fire" Club, a cult devoted to satanism and practising the black mass, found him and used his blood at one of their orgies.

After the death of his French guardian, Daigle was brought back to England and made tutor to two children (by different mothers) of Sir Hugh Wyche, one of the original Hell-fire Club founders. Falling in love with Sir Hugh's wife Barbara, he is quickly admitted to her bed at Sir Hugh's first absence. A secretary of Sir Hugh's, who had also been intimate with his wife, seduces Sir Hugh's daughter in order to secure a competence for himself, apparently renders her pregnant, but Sir Hugh dies before the secretary, Merton, can make his demands. At Sir Hugh's death, Daigle rides to inform Barbara and finds her abed with a gardener whom he beats. Merton tells Daigle of Barbara's amours with anyone interested, and Daigle in despair leaves for America with Benjamin Franklin's recommendation of his to two friends there.

On the boat with other emigrants from England, Daigle is ill, and is cared for by a young married woman whom he has befriended. Before arrival in New York, they have had sexual relations, mainly out of pity of the woman for him. In New York, Daigle is attracted by a betrothed French girl, but this does not become a liason; he takes to farming with some Quakers; is inept at it, but married a sympathetic Quaker girl. His English guardian, who has had his French guardian's wife as a mistress, traces him, at the King's request, and when he refuses to return to England, tries to kill him. Daigle, having made up his mind to join the rebel forces, lets his guardian leave under the impression that the assassination has succeeded; and lives out his life in America.

Of interest to fantasy fans is the early part of the book dealing with the Hell-fire club, and the only fantasy incident in the book (at page 102) is when Henry, son of Sir Hugh, tells his sister of the familiar which accompanies Axford, a "bare-tailed mangy monkey, so high, with little red eyes" and indicates that it must have followed him from Mendenham even though Axford has never indicated his presence at the ruined abbey.

This novel is mainly historical, but of associational interest to fantasy fans.

Draught of Eternity; London, John Long, Limited, 1924;
254p.

Basil Clifford and Chandra Pal, assistants in Dr. James Moreland's private hospital, experiment with Cannabis Sativa a forbidden drug sent by mistake for Cannabis indica from Bombay to New York. This drug opens the mind to sensations and experiences normally subconscious, eliminating or distorting the sense of time and reviving memories or experiences of other lives. In the early chapters of the book a popular exposition of the universe as eternally static, and time as the illusory effect of our limited senses in viewing it, is quite well presented, and is the main importance of the book.

The story deals with Nork and Baruk-Halin (Brooklyn) in a feudal future when barbarism has overcome civilisation, with Clifford named Ruuf, son of Og giant aging King of Nork and ruler, and with Chandra Pal Timour a prince whose father had been overcome by Og who drinks from his skull and who seeks to supplant Og in turn. A patient of Moreland's named Mrs. Staines is a modern-day incarnation of Princess Kara, a beautiful but treacherous intriguer who simulates love for Ruuf but betrays him to Tamsa a kinsman of Princess Alma who desires her but who loves Ruuf, and who goes over to Timour because he sees that Og must be deposed. The Yuki, Og's people, worship a tremendous metal Buddha whose jaws grind to death people sacrificed to appease the god. Ruuf's first adventure is to escape the Buddha; his subsequent adventures are in battle with Timour and in intrigue with Tamsa, Timour, Kara, and Epsilon, Priest of the Buddha, who defects to Timour.

Old Malachi, a prophet accredited with magical powers, warns Ruuf and Alma that if they place the fulfilment of their love above their duty to their nation, they will lose all. This transpires; Og is killed and his forces defeated; finally Ruuf re-awakens as Clifford and discovers that Dr. Moreland's daughter is the fore-runner of Alma. Timour, defeated also, has striven through both lives for possession of the vial of Cannabis Sativa, but loses when the contents of the vial are taken by Ruuf and Alma to enable them to return to their earlier lives as Clifford and Moreland's daughter.

B
Egbert, H. M.

Eric of the Strong Heart

8
Egbert, H. M.

Mrs. Aladdin

Egbert, H. M.

My Lady of the Nile; London, Hodder and Stoughton Ltd.,
no date; 286pp.

Ross, a consulting engineer, left without a job in Khartum, Meets an American professor, Jonas and agrees to join him in a search for a seven-branched candlestick and other treasures which should lead to the establishment of Zion. These are to be found in a lost city Thoth, in the midst of a labyrinth like the Cretan, but near the source of the Nile.

Mme Natalie Caraman, an adventuress who has devoted her life to Dolgouroffski, once all-powerful as king-maker in Abyssinia, and who had vowed to rule or die with him, tries to thwart the Americans' search because she believes the treasures must be possessed by Dolgouroffski.

Amos, ruler of Thoth, controls by mesmeric power Lillith Branscombe, daughter of a Captain whose tongue had been torn out and who had been tortured by Dervishes, so that he went mad. Naphtha fumes from a pit near a colossal image of Moloch keep Lillith from remembering her normal personality and make her susceptible to suggestion from Amos, so that she becomes an oracle with prophetic powers and an evil reincarnation of a priestess Sheba. Ross understands, explaining: "I have seen the phenomena of 'possession' and 'speaking with tongues' at spiritualistic seances, and I believe, as most investigators do, that, though the interpretation may be faulty, there is a genuine residue of fact beneath the frequent fraud. And I knew that these modern phenomena of our civilized races are as old as time, and common among the Abyssinians, as among nearly all primitive races."

Ras (Prince) Abouna seeks Lillith as his bride; he has been banished from his principality of Kaffa which has been ruled in his absence by his brother, and wishes to become ruler of Thoth by overthrowing Amos. Natalie Caraman finds Dolgouroffski an aging penitent, but stirs him to action in hope of ruling with him; Dolgouroffski repudiates Natalie and says he will have Lillith instead.

Abouna kills his brother accidentally, and is in turn killed by Dolgouroffski; Lillith kills Dolgouroffski at the end of the fight and is re-united with her father just before he dies. The plots and counterplots of the contending factions result in adventures and battles; the naphtha fumes are ignited and cause the death of the inhabitants of Thoth; Lillith, Ross and the professor escape from the labyrinth with the help of Lillith's father; and though the treasure has been consumed by flames, all are happy to escape.

This is a typical "lost race" story, with Lillith as an alternating personality and with veridical prophetic power giving adequate fantasy element to admit this to a fantasy fiction library.

Not much more than an average story.

Egbert, H. M.

The Sea Demons; Westport, Connecticut, Hyperion Press,
Inc. (1976) (1924, John Long Limited, London) 254p.
(All-Story Magazine, 1916)

Lt. Donald Paget of H.M.Navy meets an eccentric Capt. Masterman, who is near death, but warns of the possibility that mankind on earth's surface will be conquered by beings from the ocean's depths.

Masterman's warnings have been ignored by the Admiralty but Prof. MacBeard, the world's greatest, but unethical, brain, believes him and tries to possess himself of Masterman's papers. Paget gets possession, and is directed to Masterman's home, where he finds two tanks, one containing a sea monster, the other an invisible beautiful woman, who can dimly be perceived.

On a mission to destroy a German cruiser, Paget saves from drowning Ida Kennedy, the girl he loves. He destroys the cruiser; but MacBeard, by means of a tuning fork, has gained control of the sea monsters. The beautiful invisible woman, however, is queen of the horde, but is attracted to Paget as her mate; he is enthralled by her, insensible to even the charms of Ida while with her, and though he holds her captive and she is savage, inarticulate, is powerless in her spell.

MacBeard falls in love with Ida, and promises to bottle up the horde in a fjord if she will marry him. The queen of the horde, when mature, does not eat, but functions only for mating which lasts for three weeks, then she dies. Death of the queen reduces the horde to anarchy, however, and when this happens, MacBeard loses control, Paget and his friends rescue Ida, and Paget becomes a world hero.

This is far from being a classic, even though some of the ideas are new, considering the date of its publication.

Engel, Marian

Bear: A Novel; Toronto, McClelland and Stewart Limited
(1976, Engel) 141p.

Despite the literary interpretations attributed to this novel, it seems to me to be little more than an idealized, though basically a realistic, account of a woman's love affair with a 500 lb. bear in an isolated and historic home.

Having thought from some reviews, that this might be a fantasy, the question of this possibility was in my mind while reading it. My conclusion is that it does not qualify as other than a mainstream novel.

The historic Cary home is willed to the Historical Institute, whose director and Lou operate it, and who have a weekly session of intercourse on a desk. Lou is sent to take inventory of the Cary contents, discovers a few rare books, but otherwise merely contemporary literature added to by members of the family through generations, excepting for handwritten notes left in the books concerning bears, a tame bear always having been associated with the Cary manse.

Lou finds that a tame bear, more than 20 years old, is kept by an aged Indian woman at the rear of the house, and undertakes its care herself after being coached on how to achieve fellowship with it. In the house with it, at various times, she becomes sensually aroused and ultimately uses the bear as a lover. Her need for human love, additionally, is partly satisfied by a liason with the storekeeper who keeps her supplied with groceries and mail, he saying that his wife cannot expect him always to be faithful.

I am not qualified to read into this novel the literary interpretations others have placed on it, and I cannot see it as an important book. It seems to me, on the contrary, that it is merely an experimental treatment of the theme of bestiality.

Minn Burge who had formerly been a mistress of the movie producer Honeyman, holds a party as a festival in his honor. She is the mother of two children and is several months pregnant with a third. Her sloppy housekeeping in a decaying house in Toronto which is a hopeless proposition, her being friendly with hippies and allowing a promiscuous girl to stay in her attic room, her sheltering a runaway boy, her overweight problem, her salesman husband being away from home so much, all lead to a mood of depression and despair which is contrasted with the festivity which she tries to promote.

This is merely a portrayal of Minn's state of mind, and has no story or plot. The writing is amateurish and "modern" with stream of consciousness mixed with third party narration and first party viewpoint. It is an attempt at a novel, and not a successful attempt.

I would estimate that this novel has no permanent worth.

Epps, Bernard

Pilgrimage the Death; Toronto, The Macmillan Company of
Canada Limited, 1967 166p.

It would be difficult to imagine a more graphic representation of life in a small Quebec village where the people are mainly of Scottish descent. The characters and incidents ring true to life; the people are universals of their kind.

Each character could be made the subject of an essay, but Epps has made comment unnecessary. The book is of classic stature, or very close; there are no reticences or attempts to tone down the realities of existence; comedy and tragedy are equally presented with little auctorial comment.

I think very highly of this book.

Erdman, Paul E.

The Billion Dollar Sure Thing; Richmond Hill, Ontario, Simon & Schuster of Canada, Ltd. (Pocket Book #78726), 2nd Printing, May, 1974, Scribner, 1973, 1973, Erdman 255p.

Not as good as The Crash of '79, but still an interesting novel of high finance and international exchange, attack on the American dollar, and intrigue of bankers to control strategy for their own personal gain.

The story switches viewpoints too often for the reader to identify with any particular character or situation. My view is that the story is chiefly of interest to bankers or people whose involvement with currency exchange makes them anxious to know the background.

Erdman, Paul

The Palace; New York, Doubleday, 1988; (1987,author); 313p.

This was probably the most interesting, for me, of the five novels I have read by the author.

A Jew answering the description of the actor who "Threw Grandma from the train" starts a chain of coin shops and becomes a millionaire by handling the "skim" of silver coinage from a casino, and laundering money through a Caribbean bank.

Knowing of the scam, he is aware of the potential profits, and buys a rundown casino from the bilked owners for a high price. Determined to make it a high class mecca for gamblers, he does so and then overreaches himself by expanding into Atlantic City with high cost financing provided by the gang of launderers, and is threatened by the former managers of the casino who follow him to France. He arranges to have one killed, and gives the arranger a job as casino manager in return.

Hiring an FBI man as his security manager, he feels that by firing most of the original staff he has a reasonably honest setup which he treats generously. Rebuffed by a high class financier, he determines to show the man up, and amazes the financier by having an automobile racing course built on the casino parking lot and tearing it down a few hours after the race. He tempts the financier's mistress to join him and a beautiful black whore in a threesome, but this does not eventuate, though the whore arranges the death of the surviving crooked manager.

Worth over a hundred million by means of financial sleight of hand, the Jew makes plenty more through insider tips, and enjoys his black mistress. Life is good.

As in most of Erdman's books, money leads to betrayal, murder, and the exposure of crooked financial dealings. Cynical, but not judgmental, he describes with authority how fools are fleeced.

Erdman rejects paper money in favor of precious metals.

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Erdman, Paul E.

The Silver Bears; New York, Charles Scribner's Sons;
(1974, Daisy Chain International, Inc.) v-viii & 260p.

A group of mafia decide to establish or purchase a bank in Switzerland to enable them to hide money from the American tax authorities. The son of the chief is an excellent fore-caster of money market developments, and when he learns that an Iranian silver mine is producing prodigious quantities of the metal, agrees with the newly founded bank to finance the production and distribution of the silver.

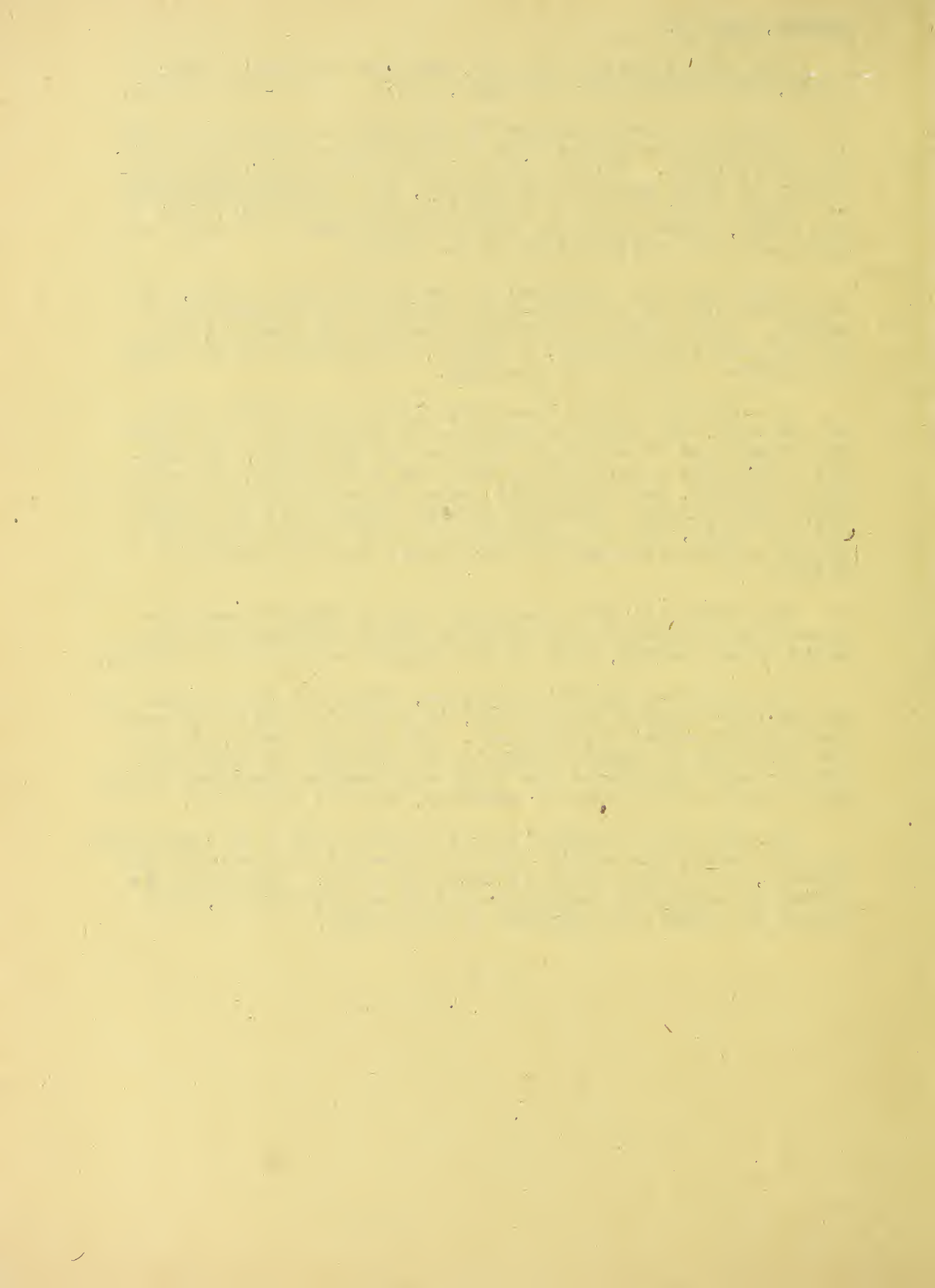
The sister is attracted to one of the mafia group, and so is the wife of a strait-laced henchman of an American banker. This situation provides most of the romantic part of the novel; her cousin, a prince, is enlisted by the group to provide a "front" and prestige.

An American silver speculator living in London learns of the mine, and seeks to acquire the bank and so to control the production of silver so that he can manipulate the market. Refusing a partnership with the mafia group, he is almost murdered, but ultimately joins the partnership to preserve their mutual interests when he learns that the "mine" did not exist, but was presented on paper with the aid of a mining engineer who manufactured assay and production reports.

The story and characters are merely Erdman's means to present his scenario of a possible way of manipulating the world silver market, much as the diamond market is controlled.

The American banker's henchman, doing his job as well as he can under orders of his boss, is made the "goat" and sent down for 10 years' imprisonment. His part is descriptive of the sacrifice of human beings in the interest of greed and profit; and illustrates how banks can compile financial statements which are apparently adequate, yet are falsified.

As with all of Erdman's novels with which I am acquainted, this one warns the public that in the world of international finance, all is not which it purports to be: the public is robbed by being fed propaganda and by market rigging, even though the latter is supposed to be illegal.



Ewing, Juliana Horatia

Melchior's Dream & Other Tales; Illustrated by M. V.
Wheelhouse; London, G. Bell & Sons Ltd., 1912 209p.

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These are mainly moral tales, well-written and with human interest. The writer has apparently drawn on family life for her background in several instances; #3 and #5 could be considered biographical and historical, respectively; #6 is a rationalized ghost-story.

This is a good book for children.

Farley, Ralph Milne

From FANTASY NEWS, V.2 #9, Feb. 19, 1939, p.3:

Ralph Milne Farley has done considerable weirds in addition to his STF. He claims to have had several personal encounters with ghosts, and has made an intensive study of what is actually known about elementals and the astral plane. Some of his researches are contained in an article entitled "The Dangerous Ouija" in the January, 1939, issue of The Telepathic Magazine, published by the Maha Publishing Company, 1221 East 55 Street, Chicago, Ill. This article should be valuable source-material for writers in this field.

From FANTASY NEWS, V.2 #20, May 7, 1939, p.2:

Ralph Milne Farley, whose real name is Roger Sherman Hoar, is a direct descendent of Roger Sherman who wrote the Declaration of Independence!!

The Cleansing of the Cup; Toronto, Evangelical Publishers, (1928) 264p.

This is a religious novel, the scene of which is not made clear but indicated to be a mining village controlled by the mine-owner Daniel Martin, formerly a minister, whose treatment by the board of his church led his wife to set her mind against any church for Christian worship. Two minister friends of Dan spend a few weeks at his home on vacation; while there they become acquainted with the regenerated girl, formerly a drinker who had lived common-law with the dissolute and weak but loving brother of the wife of one of the ministers. This regenerated girl has found Christ and is able to impart to others her feeling of clean renewal and power. She nurses the father of her former lover, a multi-millionaire, and reads to him from the Bible; he finally renounces his grasping ways, makes restitution to the victims of his financial rapacity, and devotes the remainder of his wealth to church programs for betterment of people at home and abroad. She finally marries the bachelor minister who has saved her from a rattlesnake in the mining valley, who forgets her past and accepts her as she has revealed herself in regeneration.

The theme of the theological discussions which form the bulk of the book is to get the church to accept the Bible as it is, without modification by scientific, historical or psychological ~~modification~~ theories.

The story is simple, told in good English, but without literary grace, and is religious propaganda rather than a realistic portrayal. The characters all speak and act as if they never thought on any excepting a religious plane or in terms of religion.

Apart from the kind of regeneration publicized by Harold Begbie, there is no element of fantasy.

Findley, Timothy

The Last of the Crazy People; New York, Bantam Books
(#33778), (June, 1968), (Meredith Press, May, 1967) 218p.

Hooker Winslow, an 11 year old boy, has a mother who is an insane recluse attended by a negress and by her sister; his father is well-to-do but ineffectual; his brother an alcoholic who ultimately commits suicide. Shunned by school mates and with the negress his closest confidante, he hears and misinterprets comments which lead him to believe that he must supply his brother with a gun; but after the brother commits suicide by wrecking his car, Hooker kills his father and his aunt and his mother, and is committed to an asylum.

Although this is stated to be a psychological novel in the tradition of Capote and McCullers, Hooker's motivation is not clear to me, and the whole novel appears pointless, apart from describing the daily life of a mentally disturbed family.

Like the author's next novel, which I read some years ago, this left me with no definite feeling. He just does not get through to me.

Fraser, W. A.

Mooswa and Others of the Boundaries; Illustrated by Arthur Heming; New York, Charles Scribner's Sons, 1900; 260p

These are nature stories, told mostly from the point of view of the animals, and indicating that they communicate in speech. Some are fantasy in the sense that probability is overwhelmed by the occurrences; the ideas of mutual aid among the animals, and their communal effort to assist an injured boy as if they understood his plight are in the realm of the fairy story.

This book is much more unrealistic than "The Sa'-Zada Tales", and makes me wonder if "The Outcasts" may belong in the same category.

The Canadian edition, published in Toronto by William Briggs, 1900, makes no mention of the American edition, which was reprinted by Scribner's in 1904 and may have gone into other printings.

Fraser, William Alexander

The Outcasts; Illustrated by Arthur Heming; New York,
Charles Scribner's Sons, 1901 138p.

The only fantasy element in this story is animals talking English, although the idea of a wolf-dog becoming partner of a bull buffalo and being carried by the buffalo is probably fantastic.

The wolf-dog is portrayed as a false friend to the buffalo, prepared to betray the latter to wolves, or to eat him himself if all other sources of food fail.

The Canadian setting and adventures of the pair with Indians and wolves, and the illustrations by Heming are the main attractions of this beautifully bound and printed book.

It is of no importance in a fantasy library.

The Sa'-Zada Tales; Toronto, William Briggs, 1905; 231pp.
Illustrated by Arthur Heming; New York, Charles Scribner's Sons

These are nature stories, told on successive evenings by animals in a zoo in India. The stories are told in English, and the white zoo keeper Sa'zada brings the animals together for the story-telling. There are some of the stories which have their background in Canada, though it is hard to imagine moose, timber wolves, grizzly bears and prairie bison in a tropical zoo in hot weather.

In any event, I do not consider that this book belongs in a fantasy collection - the only fantasy element being the English speech of the animals. The stories are intended for children, and to illustrate the lives of the various animals, with the intention of subduing the hunting instinct and showing that it is not right to kill except for food and in dire necessity.

Gibson was born in London, Ontario in 1934. He now lives in Toronto with his wife and two sons.

His earlier novel Five Legs was apparently the first one published by this publisher. The blurb refers to his using a "new clear, bone-spare prose", but many passages are repeated in this short novel, which should not be necessary if the first use of the words were effective.

The point of view is shifted from one character to another confusingly, and there is no apparent plot. The characters are a veterinarian and his assistant, a woman and her husband who possibly operate a bawdy house, a truck driver who is also a voyeur, and a dying old man. The sexual drives of almost all the characters seem perverted; the assistant resorts to statues, his employer to donning a dog-fur .

If this novel is significant, then it probably emphasizes slum-city environmental pressures; but I am by no means convinced that I have fathomed its meaning, assuming it has one.

If the prose is truly spare, it is definitely obscure. No character's background is sufficiently developed to enable the reader to sympathize with or understand him. The situations are chaotic, and although it is possible for the reader to form some opinions of the characters, these are much more clearly defined in psychological literature, so that the purpose of a novel, to help explain people and life, is not fulfilled by this one.

Reincarnation

From Fantasy Fiction Field, V. 6, #4, August 12, 1942, p.2:

Article: Countess Rosanka of Atlantis by Gertrude Gordon
(reporter name for Gertrude Kelley)

Among innumerable newspaper contacts, one of the most unusual and almost unbelievable was my interview with Countess Elektra Rosanka who definitely and emphatically believes she remembers her former life as "Zailam Numinos", a boy in famed Atlantis. She tells a most entrancing tale of that Lost Land, so detailed, so possible in its descriptions that one cannot doubt her own belief.

She was playing a singing vaudeville engagement when I met her, anumber of years ago. A stately person she is, beautiful, cultured and tremendously earnest about her "incarnation". She has written a voluminous book on Atlantis, describing its customs, laws, labor rules, language--everything. The labor laws were built on a profit sharing system, she says, which precluded either ~~xxxxxx~~ or too great wealth. Its poverty

officials were designated by the colors of their turbans. Its scientists, teachers and all leaders were masters of psychic communication. She also has a map of that much-talked-of continent, lying between Europe and America--and in that map the contours of both Europe and Africa are different from their appearance today, as, so the Countess says, these contours were changed when Atlantis sank.

She has a complete glossary of Atlantean words and terms. "Inithlon" was a college devoted to religious teaching; "Astik" was a prince; "Vailx" was an aerial ship; "Ven" a linear unit of about a mile, etc.

Explaining how she was a boy in that time long ago, she says: "The soul is sexless. It may come back as either man or woman."

The Countess claims America is re-incarnated Atlantis and predicts it too will sink under the ocean in 750 years because of over-population, which she says, was the reason Atlantis was destroyed.

Countess Rosanka is an American woman. She was married to a Russian nobleman who died during World War 1. She turned then to singing to support herself. She has developed, she believes, a strong occult power, based on such power she possessed 12,000 years ago, in Atlantis.

Hailey, Arthur

Airport; Garden City, New York, Doubleday & Company,
Inc., 1968 (J3), (Arthur Hailey, Ltd.) 440p.

This is a blockbuster novel, told from the author omniscient point of view and encompassing well-researched information concerning the operation and problems of an airport in ~~Minneapolis~~ Illinois. It is suspenseful, with plots and sub-plots dovetailed so that the lives of many people are outlined for the action which takes place during a few hours towards the end of a serious snowstorm which imposes serious problems on all of them.

As with other novels by this author, it is marked by expert workmanship, clear narration, an interesting story, and an expose of the sometimes illegal activities of people who must deal with the circumstances of life as they find it. It is difficult to tell whether Hailey emphasizes too much the sexual aspects of these lives for commercial purposes, or whether he is being realistic in his portrayal.

All things considered, I believe this to be a fairly realistic portrayal of the lives of people charged with responsible jobs in the airport and aircraft industries. It is worth at least a second reading.

Hailey, Arthur

The Moneychangers; New York, Toronto, London, Bantam Books (#Y2300), (January, 1976), Doubleday, Mar., 1975 500p.

This is a well-researched novel about banking and high finance, with the action centered about counterfeiting and credit cards. It is frightening because it shows that many institutions are flouting the rules of sound management and risking depositors' funds in their efforts to increase their profits and maintain a "front" of luxury and opulence.

There are two elements which are of interest to students of psychic phenomena. A girl teller is able to automatically keep track of the amounts of deposits and withdrawals, much as "lightning calculators" are able, without knowing how they do it, to give the answers to complicated mathematical questions. The other I cannot recall at the moment.

Banking practices and routine, with dramatic incidents to illustrate their consequences, make up a large part of the story, and there are several threads of interlocking personal relationships which provide the human interest. The criminal element provides the danger and suspense.

This is a type of novel which I appreciate reading: it provides information and entertainment, and is worth keeping for reference.

Hailey, Arthur

Wheels; New York, Bantam Books (#10899), (7th Printing, February, 1977), (1971, Hailey) 501p.

This novel is really a fictional description of the operation of a motor company from the points of view of executive to assembly-line worker, the problems, customs, frustrations, and triumphs, the huge rewards and the pitiful and shameful psychological injuries sustained when the humans are required to submit to the tyranny of the machine.

Having just read a book on the welfare crisis in Cleveland, I can confirm that Hailey's description of the plight of the negro underprivileged worker is not overdrawn. I am not surprised, either, at his declaration that the executive works longer hours and more efficiently than the assembly-line man; and that the psychological effects can be as hard on both. In fact, my impression of the motor industry in Detroit is that it could be considered a hell.

Hailey in this book places more emphasis on sex than in earlier books, but perhaps this is merely pressure from the publishers catering to an assumed demand by the public. He writes matter-of-factly concerning all elements in his books and his research must be accurate or he and the publishers would be open to libel suits on several counts.

The book's importance is its description of an industry and its methods of production and marketing. Hailey makes even the technical details interesting by showing their effects on his characters.

Muriel says she has read the book twice, and I agree that this is worthwhile, even though I am not interested in cars.

Harris, John Norman

The Weird World of Wes Beattie; Toronto, Macmillan of
Canada (1963) 216p.

A bank clerk accused of murdering his uncle gives so fantastic an account of an alleged conspiracy against him that he is urged to plead insanity as a defence. A young lawyer, Sidney "Gargoyle" Grant believes his story, and on checking manages to verify his innocence and convict the plotters.

This story is a pretty close imitation of the Perry Mason stories, but is laid in the Metropolitan Toronto area and gives a pretty good description of Canadian criminal law procedure. It is well-written and interesting, but the only scientific or fantastic ideas are the memory of the "unconscious" mind and the action of "truth" serum. Probably it is one of the best modern murder mysteries written about Canada, but it has no place in a fantasy library.

Howard, Robert E.

Almuric

Note: From FANTASY NEWS, V. 2 #3, January 8, 1939, Page 4:

WEIRD JOTTINGS by FARNSWORTH WRIGHT:

Beginning with the May issue we are printing a posthumous inter-planetary novel by ROBERT E. HOWARD, entitled "Almuric". At the time of his death, Mr. Howard had completed the first draft of the story and had done the greater part of the second draft. The novel is so striking that I thought it would be unfair to our readers if we did not give them a chance to read this. So I pieced together an ending from the first draft and used it to make a complete story.....I still have on hand a few beautiful poems by Robert E. Howard, but no more prose.



A St. Boniface slaughterhouse worker whose interests are primarily intellectual allows environmental influences to dictate the tone of his life. His father had abandoned his mother. She had tried to bring up her son by putting him through school, but he tore up a scholarship he had won, refused to join in the graduation exercises, left home to enter a rooming house and make his own way, deriding the bourgeois values which he could not reconcile with the harsh realities of existence.

His physical strength and will-power drained by his job, he allows his room, his clothes, and his person to deteriorate into a filthy, disgusting state. Only an occasional flicker of shame makes him desire to improve, but he has lost hope and is aimless; is dominated by a brutal fellow-worker to the point that he shares the services of a prostitute with him rather than incur persecution by refusing; drinks to alleviate his gloom and dull his sensitivity to his degradation; and finally succumbs to his physical impulses and appetites rather than endure the torture of thought.

Wearying of the apparently futile lives of his friends, he leaves the roominghouse after resisting the sexual advances of an Indian girl Sally, and gets a room in a Main Street Hotel. At least the room is cleaned every day. He retains his job, but does not tell his friends where he is living and makes no attempt to contact them. It is like a fresh start in life.

Nora, a middle-aged seller of burial plots, whose brutal construction-worker husband makes her a part of his hospitality to his friends, who has been deprived of her two children as an "unfit mother", except for visiting privileges for two hours on Sundays, becomes his mistress. She is past forty; he is twenty-five; they are ridiculed by hotel clerks and others who realize the sexual relationship; yet their liking for one another becomes at least a temporary love and sympathy. Nora's husband and a friend discover them, but the protagonist seizes a gun and would have killed the husband if his friend had not persuaded him to leave. Nora insists on remaining free to live her own life, enjoys sex with others in spite of the hurt to her immature lover, and this leads to her becoming imperilled by the protagonist's brutal co-worker. Conquering his fear, the protagonist tries a rescue, but discovers that the peril has been escaped because of the simply drunken incapacity of the co-worker.

One of his friends, Darryl, is working on a book about the theory of literature, but impregnates a New Zealand beauty and feels obligated to marry her. The marriage is wrecked by Darryl's unwillingness to accept the responsibilities of wedded life; he leaves Vanessa and the baby, establishes himself in a roominghouse, but finds himself unable to work on his book, allows himself to deteriorate to the point that he is mentally

ill and food spoils in the refrigerator without his lifting a finger to change. The protagonist rescues him after being appealed to by Vanessa, and is instrumental in reconciling them and saving the marriage.

Another of the protagonist's friends is a principal of an experimental school where the pupils are permitted to educate themselves at their own pace and under their own rules. This conflicts with the "established system" in the small town near Winnipeg where the school is located; and in a fight with a drunken crowd, the principal is blinded. The protagonist devotes his life to assisting his friend to retain his position, and becomes a teacher, feeling that at last he has found a vocation and a goal.

Other characters appear to be motivated more by their sexual and drinking habits than by reason; and most of the trouble that arises in the book stems from these habits and the surroundings in which they are satiated. The Island, in a Lake north of Winnipeg, is the idyllic refuge of the protagonist and his friend Konrad the principal, but even this refuge has a touch of horror because of the cruelty of nature.

This novel is rather a description of the hell in which humans dwell who are motivated by their physical appetites, than a contemporary balanced portrayal of life in the contemporary Canadian city of Winnipeg. Sections of the book are exceptionally well-written and appealing, and promise well for more mature work in future books. On the whole, however, it is difficult to visualize a teacher guiding children on the basis of such a background, excepting as one qualified to warn them away from the dangers he has encountered.

1104 Mulvey Avenue,
Winnipeg 9, Manitoba,
January 24th, 1970.

Dear Bob:

It is many years since we met, and only once during that time have I heard anything of you directly: from Don Comstock who told me of meeting you downtown one day, I think while you were still a reporter for the Tribune. I had read some of your newspaper stories and travel reports, but was not even certain of your identity until Don told me of his talk with you. I did not have your address, and when you stopped coming over here on Friday nights I never attempted to trace you, my attitude always being that anyone interested in fantasy and science fiction is welcome to come, but that fantasy fans are often known to gafia (get away from it all) and prefer to be left alone when in that mood.

But some copies of your book are presently being sold by The Bay at \$1.69 as "slightly damaged", and I have read it with fascinated interest. I am enclosing a few notes I typed up this morning; I finished reading the book last night.

Additionally to the notes, however, I think you may be interested in my frame of mind while reading. I was watching continually for signs of the boy who imperilled his job by reading Howard's "Conan" books during working hours; who was excited by Ernest Dimnet's "The Art of Thinking"; whose determination to write suggested to me an idealistic dreamer. Even after finishing the book, I cannot say how much of my interest in it was conditioned by my effort to gauge the changes in your personality, to decide what parts of the book were based on personal experiences and what parts were sheer imaginative fiction; and how much was due to my interest in the book as a literary work. I am puzzled and perplexed by my inability to be impersonal in appraising it.

When you wrote of flying saucers and of Mu and Atlantis and of the doom mankind may face because of atomic power or geologic change, and when you mentioned authors like Stapledon, I thought you might have retained a feeling for these things. But then your character appeared to lose interest in books, and to feel that only experience in living had any validity, wished to escape from fantasy and come to grips with reality, only to become endangered by schizophrenia. I wondered if the determination of your character to cut his associations with his friends paralleled your own decision to quit calling here. I wondered if your own family background was similar to that of your own protagonist, whose name, if you gave it, I have been unable to recall.

And so I am writing you. I want to congratulate you on achieving the publication of your first novel, and to express the hope that it is merely the forerunner of many.

But I also wish to ask some questions. Was the emphasis

you placed on drinking and gutter-sex experiences done for shock value from the point of view of commercializing your book, or do you really feel that people are all motivated by sex and drinking or drugs to escape through sensation from their daily routine miseries?

Your protagonist seems to me to have incurred most of his problems because he was aimless. Yet you seem to me to possess real insight when it comes to the personalities and problems of people; and I cannot understand the confusion and despair exhibited by your characters. Surely this is unreal and exaggerated?

You have had a great deal of practice at writing under the pressure of newspaper deadlines, and I don't doubt that your experiences as a reporter have exposed you to many of the seamier sides of life, but what is your personal outlook and philosophy? I am dismayed by the exaggerated and tasteless emphasis on the cruder manifestations of sexual activity which occupy so much of the wordage of many modern books. Don't infer that I object to sex: I have five children and my own sexual experiences are among the most enjoyable and satisfying of my life; so much so that I would never resort to drink or drugs to modify them: I want my real self to be blessed to the utmost. I simply cannot understand why anyone should wish to introduce factors which would brutalize the experience. Sex is simply a fact of nature, necessary for the perpetuation of the race and made an emotional and physical desire and delight to that end: why should people wish to degrade so wonderful and glorious an experience?

I know you must be a very busy person, but if you have time to write and review your life and give me clues to the answers to some of my questions, I shall be grateful. I am sorry if anything I did influenced you to discontinue your visits with our science fiction group; certainly I shall try to change any attitude which may have disgusted you.

Again, with best wishes.

Hardly more than an acquaintance,

Chester D. Cuthbert.

Jackson, Basil

Flameout; New York, W. W. Norton & Company, Inc.;
(1976, Jackson); Glossary 287p.

There is little plot or story to this novel, which is a hypothetical case-history of the investigation into the cause of the crash of a jet plane in which 406 people lost their lives.

Steven Klein, Investigator-in-Charge is baffled in his attempt to solve the mystery, and comes to believe that the cause was some extraneous radiation of high power which has caused a fire in the nose cone of the jet, which causes all three motors to flameout (cease operation) simultaneously. Although he suspects a Russian satellite, ultimately he is able to prove by a re-enactment in a similar plane without passengers, that laser beams directed by experimental air force operations of the U.S.A. were the cause.

Too highly technical to be popular except among aviation enthusiasts or investigators of similar crashes, this novel qualifies as science fiction because it places the date of the crash as May 16, 1977 and is consequently a story of the future.

The daily interaction of the investigating team, and the political and social consequences of its work, form the background and action of the novel, and it is really what Arthur Hailey in a quote on the front of the dust jacket said: "A brilliantly conceived aviation detective story."

The graphic descriptions of the crash scene and the final climax of the re-enactment of the crash are highlights of the book, and the suggestions of how new technological developments and experiments can affect ongoing activities before their effects can be foreseen, are frightening.

This is, in its particular way, an important novel, just as Epicenter was in connection with radiation dangers from nuclear power plants. Jackson deals with the problems of modern technology in a competent and cautionary manner.

Jones, Raymond F.

The Toymaker; Los, Angeles, Fantasy Publishing Company,
Inc., 1951 287pp

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A family living on Carib Island, the drunken father, the hard-working, affectionate mother, and three boys and a girl living in fear of their father, are assailed by wind and rain. The youngest boy is driven into the swamp through fear of his father and catches cold and fever from exposure; despite his mother's efforts to save him, he dies. The wake is held, and the father arranges with a woman to get his wife drunk so he can accuse her of fault in the death, warding off blame from himself and showing her drunkenness as proof that she is an unfit mother. The beliefs of the natives are portrayed more as superstitious survivals of their religion than as fantasy or weird elements in the story, but the author appears to be describing the background of a life familiar to him, and I think this book would be of value to anyone who likes Henry S. Whitehead's stories published in the two Arkham House volumes.

Although the author is obviously an amateur, he convinces me that his feeling for his characters is genuine, and likely his dialect is authentic.

Lane, John

Return Fare; Winnipeg, Turnstone Press, 1981 (1981,
author) 111p.

A 15 year old boy is in love with a girl whose mother is a prostitute, viciously suspicious of his relationship with her daughter, and cruelly punishing the girl for associating with him. Clandestinely, they meet in a hotel room, plan to marry, but the girl returns to her mother, and the boy leaves for Los Angeles, hitchhiking.

He meets both friendly and exploitative people, steals food, is threatened by a promiscuous homosexual who picks him up in a car, gets to California but is mistakenly imprisoned with some Mexican "wetback" illegal immigrants, brutally mistreated by guards and prisoners, infected with venereal disease, and finally rescued by a naval man who had befriended him during his journey, treated in hospital, then returned to Canada by the immigration authorities, only to learn that his friend the girl had been killed in a motor accident while he was in California.

This is a realistic novel portraying the victimization of aliens and prisoners by an unfeeling social system. The sordid events are alleviated only by the friendly actions of individuals who try to help the ignorant boy. The story is inconclusive, the boy as helpless in the end as in the beginning.



1982 ALL-CANADA CONVENTION

CHRISTIAN CHURCH (Disciples of Christ)

REGISTRATION FORM EXPLANATION

This year there is a Women's Retreat prior to the Convention itself. The Mennonite Brethren Bible College is available Tuesday night for those wishing to arrive early for this event.

A. Registration ... We hope you will find this self explanatory. Please note separate registration for Encounter Groups. There is no Convention registration fee for children under eleven years. (See Day Care).

B. Accomodation... The Mennonite Brethren Bible College is passing along the \$8.00 per person bedding charge, in which they receive no profit. This bedding is for the entire time, regardless of how long you stay.

Children twelve years and under who stay with adults, will be provided with a mattress at one half the \$4.50 adult price... i.e. \$2.25 per night and their linen is \$8.00

C. Meals... For catering purposes, the Mennonite Brethren Bible College must have an accurate count in advance of the Convention.

You will note there is no supper being served on Saturday at the Convention site. The cafeteria will be closed on Sunday morning. Home Street church will be providing a light complimentary lunch following the Sunday morning worship service.

For children under twelve, all meals are half adult price, with exception of those three years and under, whose meals are free.

The C.C.W.F. luncheon has been combined with the C.C.M.F. luncheon because of our special speaker, Dr. Jean Woolfolk.

D. Child Care.... The cost of \$4.00 per day includes two snacks and a noon meal, and the child's care after breakfast until 5.00 p.m.

Leacock, Stephen

Short Circuits; New York, Dodd, Mead and Company, 1928;
(1928, Dodd, Mead and Company, Inc.) 372p.

These are mainly short sketches or humorous essays commenting on human foibles and manners and customs; I do not list the long table of contents because almost none pertain to the field of fantasy.

There are some speculations which could be considered as associational: "If Mussolini Comes"; "Get Off the Earth"; "Extinct Monsters", but these are not fictionalized.

Like most of Leacock, these sketches are readable, but light and of little importance.

Lloyd, Wallace (pseud. of Algie, James)

Bergen Werth; London, T. Fisher Unwin, 1901

276pp.

See my notes written in the Public Library.

Lloyd, Wallace (pseud. of Algie, James)

Houses of Glass: A Philosophical Romance; New York,
Dillingham, 1898 398pp.

Houses of Glass: A Romance; Toronto, W. J. Gage & Com-
pany, Limited, 1899 398p.

This is the story of the family of two immigrants to America from England, who settle on a farm and through the financial ability of the wife, become wealthy. Their elder daughter is illegitimate, as was the wife, who is from Cornwall, a big woman. The elder daughter Marian Walford, is the heroine of the story, whose beauty and loving nature lead her into an indiscretion with a schoolmate, and whose mother thwarts the match by suppressing the letters written by the lover after the mother has engineered the ruin and banishment of his family.

Marian marries an upright, but narrow Scotchman, who is owner of a mill, and loves him, but is still enthralled by the earlier love when she meets him as a clergyman. She manages to control this, but when he gives her a transfusion of his blood and later dies of blood-poisoning from the bite of her dog, and her husband discovers her early indiscretion, he reviles her and though they continue to live together, it is not as man and wife.

The old doctor George Bennet, who believes in animal magnetism and natural affinity, realizes the antipathy that has arisen between the two, but by arranging a temporary parting, he cures the husband of neurasthenia, and in befriending a dual personality phrenological professor, writing of pamphlets and lecturer on unorthodox Christianity, makes Marian and David Gordon conscious of the higher value of love, and they are reconciled.

A philosophical novel, rather than a fantasy, this is a possible candidate for a fantasy library because it contains two instances of telepathic rapport, and the dualism of the professor. I consider, however, that it belongs to the class of novel represented by Watson Griffin's The Gulf of Years.

Although the author was a Canadian, this story is located in New England, and boosts the U.S.A.

This may be the only one of the three novels written by the author which need be considered. However, it is interesting enough that I should read the other two if they can be found.

Lloyd, Wallace (pseud. of Algie, James)

The Sword of Glenvoehr; Toronto

(19-?)

Louth, Cyril E.

But for the Grace of God; New York, Pageant Press, Inc.
(1956, author) 112p.

"Metropolis", the scene of this "novel" is easily identified as Winnipeg, and I suspect the author was employed by the "Free Press" since his name is not familiar to me as a reader of the "Tribune".

I cannot identify the private sanitarium called Pinewood in which the character Paul confined himself for "drying out" but Main Street is one of the few undisguised locations. No particular reason appears necessary for any of the disguised nomenclature, since little apart from the usual haunts of the alcoholics is disclosed. Louth feels that only judges, doctors and lawyers, and other people who have experienced the dangers of alcoholism, can understand the uncontrolled actions of alcoholics while in "blackout" states of mind.

I consider that although this book is amateurish as a novel, it is an important depiction of an alcoholic, and his attempt at rehabilitation under the guidance of A.A. The physical and psychological craving for alcohol proves the writer's claim that alcoholism is a disease, and should be treated. The rights of the individual should be respected; but it seems clear to me that the alcoholic is mentally impaired and should be treated as mildly insane, and not responsible for his actions.

This book should be used to educate people, particularly drinkers or drug addicts, about the dangers of indulging in mind-changing substances.

The story is merely the outline of a newspaper reporter trying to do his job and at the same time indulge his craving for drink; his shame at his inability to control himself, and the conflict between his knowledge of the consequences of drinking and his continuing to indulge. The descriptions of other alcoholics, the drink traffic itself during bootlegging days, and the helplessness of drink's victims while under the influence of liquor, are appalling, and elicit sympathy.

Although published by a "vanity" press, and likely at the author's expense, this book deserves consideration beyond its amateur status.

HOME STREET



CHRISTIAN CHURCH

(DISCIPLES OF CHRIST)

240 HOME STREET • WINNIPEG, MANITOBA R3G 1X3 • (204) 783-5881

May 30, 1982

Dear Home Street Youth:

Just a note to let you know of the fun and exciting youth activities coming your way this Summer.

First - Youth Campout, July 1-4 at

Spruce Woods Provincial Park

A registration form is enclosed - note its due date: June 20. This is especially for you - the youth of Home Street Church - and your friends. We'll leave the church at 8:30 AM, July 1.

Second - Encounter '82, August 8-15 at

Bird's Hill Provincial Park

This is the Big One! Youth from all across Canada will be joining us for a terrific week. Camp leader will be Steve Mabry from Sacramento, California. If you attended the Anaheim Assembly last year, you may remember him as one of the youth leaders - the one with the guitar. Enclosed is further information on Encounter and an Encounter Registration form. Note its due date: June 30.

Again this year you have something great to work for. Bottles? Car washes? Whatever; it's time to begin. I'll be in touch.

In His Service,


Ray E. Trotter

Ludwig, Jack, and Wainwright, Andy Poetry Anthology.

Soundings: New Canadian Poets; Toronto, Anansi, 1970
Biographies plus 126 p.

Although I read this book quite carefully, I could find nothing in it of permanent interest to me. The poets represented, in order of appearance, are:

| | | |
|------------------|---------------|-----------------|
| Warren Stevenson | Deborah Eibel | Sid Marty |
| Don Bailey | John Ditsky | Iqbal Ahmad |
| Richard Sommer | Michael Osler | Eugene McNamara |
| D. M. Price | C. H. Gervais | Bill Howell |
| Tom Wayman | Dale Zieroth | |

Dale Zieroth was born north of Winnipeg in 1946. He and his wife live in Toronto.

Jack Ludwig was born in Winnipeg in 1922 and received a B.A. from the University of Manitoba and a Ph.D. from UCLA. He was writer-in-residence at the University of Toronto during 1968-69 and since then has been teaching at the State University of New York. He is well known for his short stories and has published two novels - Confusions and Above Ground (McClelland and Stewart). A third novel is due for release shortly.

MacKenzie, Norman

Dreams and Dreaming; London, Bloomsbury Books, (1989); Appendix; Index; illustrated 351p.

This large book is by far the most comprehensive I've read on the subject. It covers the folklore and history as well as the modern scientific researches.

The most interesting factor for me is the prevalence of belief in dreams forecasting future events. The author mentions a number of cases supporting the belief.

The profuse illustrations are helpful.

Chester D. Cuthbert
February 15, 2005

INTEREST RATES

88-03-23 (* DENOTES LATEST CHANGE)

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| US \$ - SUPERRATE | | 5.750 | | 1988 | 7.000 | MISC DEMAND PRIME + | 1.000 |
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| | | | | | | 3 YR | 10.500 |
| | | | | | | 4 YR | 10.750 |
| | | | | | | 5 YR | 11.000 |
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| | | | | | | FLOAT RATE-NEW&RENEW | |
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Mackie, John

The Devil's Playground: A Story of the Wild Northwest;
Illustrated by A. Hencke; New York, Frederick A. Stokes Company (1894) 246p.

When searching for books of Canadian fantasy, a title like this appears most promising, especially when the frontispiece has the caption "His Satanic Majesty Makes A Move".

The story is not fantastic, however. Dick Travers, travelling through the country then termed the Northwest, but later known as Alberta, meets his former love who is now the wife of a rancher; saves her from a prairie fire and finally from a blizzard; and learns that she was not faithless but duped into believing him married to another.

The book's title comes from a valley of fossils and rocks representing prehistoric beasts, which Chrissie Tre-dennis is tempted to paint.

Apart from an incident indicating a belief in telepathy, and the Hero's having had his head read by a phrenologist, there are no fantasy elements in the book, and it does not belong in a fantasy library.

Miscellaneous notes.

Elizabeth Mackintosh writes as "Gordon Daviot" and "Josephine Tey".

From FANTASY NEWS, V. 2 #2, Jan. 1, 1939, p.1:
NEWS FLASHES BY HARRY WARNER, JR.

Karl Capek, writer of the fantasy play R.U.R., died in Prague on Christmas Day. He was 48. His play was a sensation in 1920, dealing with the problems in a robot ruled world.

From same issue, p.2:

Many copies of the first issue of STRANGE STORIES were imperfect. The bad ones had their pages in the normal order from 1 to 96, but where 97 should have been was 65 instead, and all pages from 65 to 96 were then repeated----leaving all after 96 out altogether. At least half received here were this way.

In V. 2 #3, p.2:

READERS OF STRANGE STORIES ATTENTION: If you happen to have one of those incorrectly bound copies of STRANGE STORIES, as stated in Harry Warner's column last issue, send it to LEO MARGULIES, C/o STANDARD MAGAZINES, Inc., 22 West 48th St., New York, N Y and it'll be replaced with a brand-new, correctly bound copy of that issue or the next.

In V. 2 #9 appears a column by Sam Moskowitz about Dorothy Quick as a protege of Mark Twain.

In V.2 #22, p.2, in a column by Moskowitz, Campbell says: "In my estimation, "The Gray Lensman" is the best thing Smith ever wrote, it is infinitely superior to "Galactic Patrol". Campbell also informed your correspondent that he was presenting a fine array of top-notch new authors. Among the best of these is A E van Vogt who is so good that his story "Black Destroyer" rates a cover. He is as good or better than Berryman, and never wrote a story previously to the one to appear in Astounding.

In V.4, #26, June 16, 1940, p.1: A last minute postal card from Julius Schwartz informs us that Farnsworth Wright died last week after an operation.

V.5, #12, September 15, 1940, p.1: Column THE TIME STREAM by Sam Moskowitz: Many readers will be saddened to learn that Fred MacIsaac, author of many fine sf novels in ARGOSY, died recently, a suicide, almost penniless. The generally accepted motive was his inability to click in the modern pulps.

MacLennan, Hugh

The Watch that Ends the Night; New York, Charles Scribner's
Sons (1958, 1959, Author) 373p.

Peter Wiebe thought highly of this book, and as it is the only copy I have, I decided to read it instead of taking it into Wayne Shaw's bookshop.

The story begins with the return of Jerome Martell to Montreal after he had been declared dead twelve years previously by the War Office. His wife had married the narrator who was a childhood friend, and he was greatly in love with her and with Martell's daughter. Martell, a nameless child, had been adopted by a minister and his wife and given their name; had become a brilliant surgeon, but his impulsive nature and resentment of the depression economical conditions had led him towards communism, a beautiful nurse being his guide in that direction. Deserting her husband, a housebound and incompetent, but faithful and loving man, she went to Spain on the same ship with Martell, not realizing that his devotion was to the cause of democracy and not to her or his wife and child whom he left behind.

The narrator, a radio political commentator and former school teacher, believing himself worthless because of his experiences during the depression, has loved Martell's wife, but has been unable to ask her in marriage because of his impoverished condition. Martell, nearly a genius, makes a lot of money, but spends freely, and welcomes the narrator as a guest in his home and as a companion for his wife since he, Martell, has so little time apart from his career and volunteer work.

Apart from the sociological milieu of Montreal, the hatred of the capitalist system which brought on the depression, and the entanglements of the lives of the characters, the chief interest of this novel is the characterizations of principal and subsidiary people. The early part of the story is better than the conclusion, which involves too much philosophical reflection and a baffled look at life, ending in a religious idea that any meaning is beyond human comprehension, and that God is indifferent to human values.

Definitely, an important novel, worth studying, yet not a classic.

Manning, Matthew

The Link: Matthew Manning's Own Story of His Extraordinary
Psychic Gifts; with an Introduction by Peter Bander; New York,
Holt, Rinehart and Winston; (1974, Colin Smythe Ltd; 1975 Peter
Bander; 158p.

To the best of my knowledge, this is the only book written
by an identified person through whom poltergeist phenomena mani-
fested. As with most psychics, these were unwelcome, troubling
and of unknown cause.

Matthew was able to minimise the phenomena by automatic
writing and drawing. I understand that after writing this book
he devoted his life to psychic healing.

Because of his unique experiences, this book is important
in having the testimony of many witnesses. There are so many
books on poltergeists and their phenomena; yet I know of none
telling of any poltergeist seen.

Chester D. Cuthbert
December 25, 2003

Martel, Stephen

In the Forests of the Night; Toronto, The Copp Clark
Publishing Co. Ltd. (1961) 186p.

Although written as fiction, I suspect this book is a representation of a factual experience.

Michael Gill has a serious leg wound and many flesh wounds in the battle of Italy, and this book is the story of his treatment in hospital and en route to England; his subsequent confinement in a mental hospital as the result of bone infection which caused hyper-activity of the brain and led to insane behavior.

This is not fantasy fiction, but does describe the hallucinations, heightened perception, and emotional disturbances of delirium. Although interesting, it is a depressing book; copyright was retained by the author, so he may have financed publication. It is quite well-written, but there is no plot and one is given no hint of developments after Gill's return to sanity.

Sushila; New York, G. P. Putnam's Sons (1957) 315p.

Daughter of an American mother and a Hindu father, this girl develops into a self-centered artist, considering nothing except what will fulfill her self-expression. The novel describes in detail her development, her love and struggle for supremacy with a Hindu male artist, and her death from TB.

Unlike "Lost Island", this novel has no fantasy element. It is a too-greatly detailed exposition of the life of a family in India, and of little interest to anyone not fascinated by that life. Sushila does not arouse sympathy, and is only a burden to her family and friends, whose reward must be, if any, their appreciation of her art.

Though extremely well-written, this novel devotes too much space to minutiae, and it is a chore to read because there is so little real "meat" to be derived from it.

Monsarrat, Nicholas

Castle Garac; New York, Alfred A. Knopf (1955 Monsarrat)
252p.

Ostensibly a Gothic novel, this is actually a light and contrived story of a novelist, broke and in Paris, who hires himself out to a sophisticate and his wife to locate a castle and a blonde French girl who is to act the part of its heir-ess. The girl turns out to be Renee de Garac, but her fortune has been dissipated by the New York banker to whom it had been entrusted, so that it is fortunate that the novelist has made some \$50,000 from his first novel.

This is well-written, but padded to novel length from what might have been a fair novelette. It has nothing of the strength of the author's "Tribe" stories, and is a waste of time.

Monsarrat, Nicholas

The Cruel Sea; New York, Alfred A. Knopf, 1951 (1951,
Monsarrat) 510p.

This novel was a Book of the Month Club selection, and a deserving one.

It follows the five-year story of the Commander of, at first a corvette, and then of a frigate, and his first officer convoying fleets of supply ships across the Atlantic and battling German submarines in the North Atlantic during the years 1939-1945. Erickson, an able and worthy commander, was successful in carrying with him, after a submarine had sunk his first ship, Lockhart, at first a raw journalist, and at last a competent successor to his Chief, to the frigate and to success in accepting the surrender of U-boats after having sunk three during the course of the war.

Primarily a historical survey of the British war at sea, the novel also shows the effects of the war on the development of character in the men who served, their increasing competence in their work, the personal and family problems of many of the men and women, the relaxing of moral standards between men and women who shared the war effort, and the harsh conditions of living both as civilians and as combatants.

Lockhart falls in love with a Tren who is a worthy object of his devotion, and when she is drowned while replacing a sick girl, he goes on living just as he had after the corvette had been sunk. He and the Captain come to respect and love each other for their sterling qualities. The love story of Lockhart and Julie Mallam is a very fine one, offsetting well the troublesome and sordid stories of other marriages and sexual encounters, and showing that love sanctions sexual relations as only its heaven can do.

Erickson and Lockhart agree that the early stages of the war left time and thought for personal matters, but that the individual and human relationships had to be eliminated from consideration as the war progressed and became simply battle to the finish.

I feel that this novel gives all the information one should need to understand the courage and self-sacrifice which was needed to win the war. It is also a vivid picture of sea-going life, and the trials and tribulations of the personnel learning to accept responsibility and achieving capability as ~~xxxxxx~~ the war continued.

A good, strong novel, and the author sympathizes with all mankind and its problems.

London, Cassell & Company Ltd., (First Edition, August,
1951, 2nd, September, 1951, many printings) 416p.
Cadet Edition (revised), (1953) 328p.

Morton, Guy

The Mystery of Hermit's End; London, Skeffington & Son,
Ltd., no date; 287pp.

Sandy Ogilvie, junior partner in a legal firm, is asked by the senior partner to investigate the source of funds used for speculative purposes by Tempest, the Hermit of Hermit's End, who lives in a partly finished castle. He takes a marathon swimmer, Cap Bridges, using the excuse of training to account for their presence at Hermit's End.

They discover two rival families who have been seeking pirate gold for many years, and who both believe in witchcraft. Using this belief to influence the locals, they gradually find out that Tempest is a drug addict who has plotted to kidnap Buchanan (who commissioned Ogilvie) and hold him for ransom; but whose drugged brain is incapable of finalizing the plan. One of the locals is murdered, and by co-operating with the police, Ogilvie finally rescues his employer and assists to capture the abductors. Tempest had been a speculator whose defense had been conducted by Buchanan; Buchanan invested in stocks which had caused Tempest's failure, but which revived to make Buchanan wealthy so that Tempest felt he had a claim on Buchanan's wealth.

The scene of the story is Maine, and although the plot is good, and well-handled, the characters are not particularly interesting, apart from Bridges. There is some speculation that Buchanan's disappearance may be accounted for by his being the victim of alternating personality; but this is a "red herring", and the belief in witchcraft is treated as a superstition and ridiculed accordingly, so this mystery story does not belong in a fantasy library.

I would say it is a better story than "King of the World".

Onions, Oliver

Ghosts in Daylight; London, Chapman & Hall, Ltd., 1924;
236pp.

Contents

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| 1. The Ascending Dream | Page 3 |
| 2. The Honey in the Wall | 31 |
| 3. The Dear Dryad | 97 |
| 4. The Real People | 125 |
| 5. The Woman in the Way | 209 |

All except #3 of these stories are reprinted in the author's "Collected Ghost Stories".

#1 gives three instances at different periods in the history of man of how the desire to ascend resulted fatally for the man involved and tragically for the woman left behind. #2 is psychoanalytic in portraying a woman compelled against her will to love a philanderer. #3 tells of three women whose fate was influenced by an oak tree to which the most primitive of the women had pledged worship. #4 tells of the chance in an author who tries realism in place of romantic idealism, and two of whose characters in the realistic novel meet him and influence him in real life. #5 is the best "ghost" story and tells how a woman, thwarted by death in her efforts to seduce the oldest son of a neighbor, tries, when he is adolescent, to seduce as a ghost the second son.

These stories all appear to be experimental in literary method, and confirm that Onions is an author worth studying.

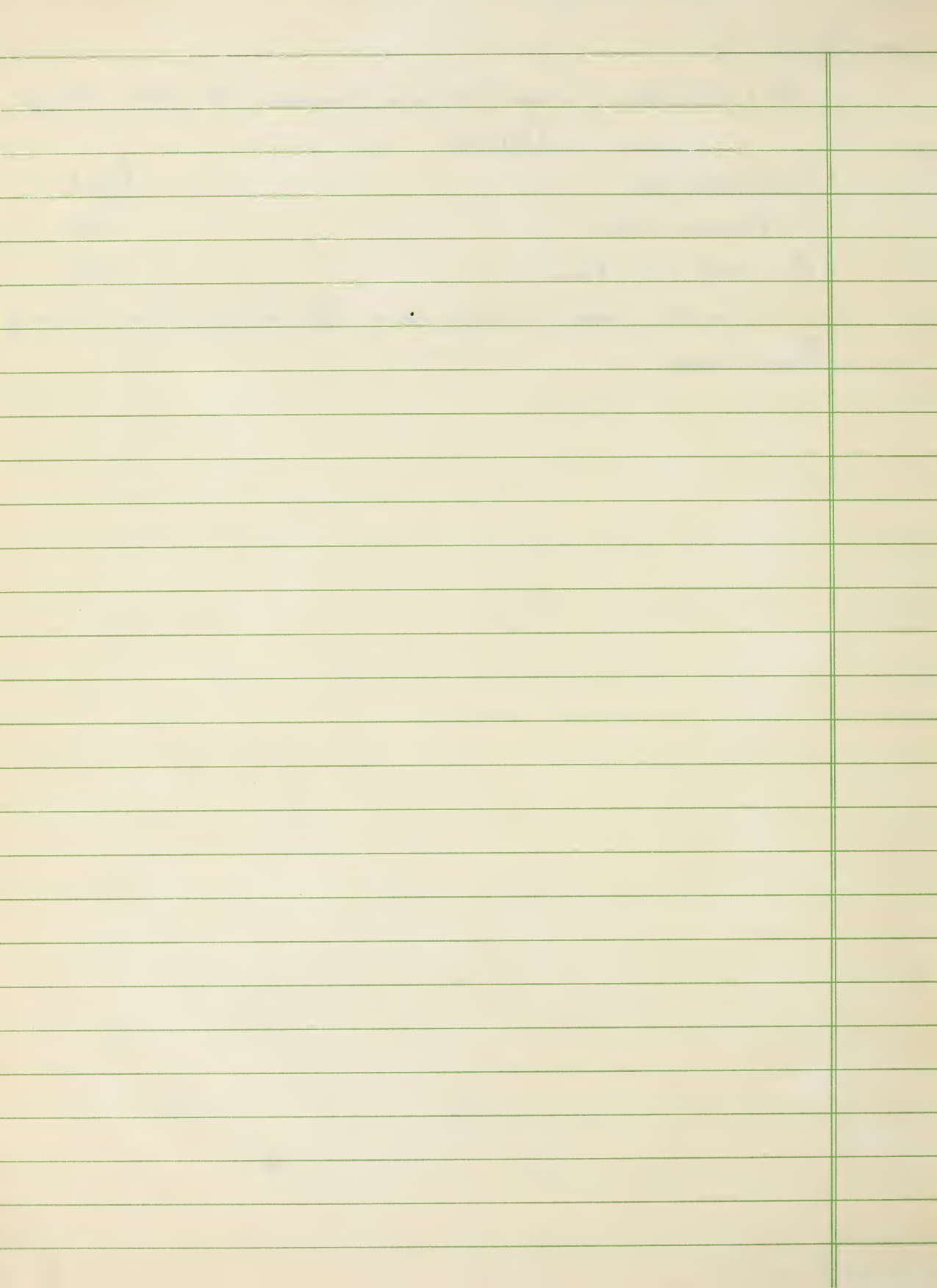
ions, Oliver

"The Painted Face", London, William Heinemann Ltd., 1929; 294 pp.

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| The Painted Face | Page 1. |
| The Rosewood Door | 149. |
| The Master of the House | 229. |

These three stories are reprinted in "The Collected Ghost Stories of Oliver Onions".



Onions, Oliver

Widdershins; London, Martin Secker (The New Adelphi
Library #4), 1926 (1911) 299p.

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| 7. The Cigarette Case | 225 |
| 8. Hic Jacet | 245 |

All of these stories are reprinted in The Collected Ghost Stories of Oliver Onions; #5 under the title "The Lost Thyrsis". Least effective, in my opinion, are #2 and #7. All are worth studying, however; Onions is a master, and his philosophy is sketched in his introduction to the omnibus volume.

Penguin Books #222 (1939)

246p.

Cry Hallelujah!; London, Dennis Dobson (1970, Orvis)
173p.

A beautiful red-haired girl starts a revivalist house opposite a brothel in Greenwich Village, and among the down-and-outs of her early congregations are several of the prostitutes from the brothel forming a choir. Her earliest convert is a reformed thief, a cripple, whom she coaches to respond with her name Hallelujah to encourage the faint-hearted to join in fervent worship.

By chance, a rainstorm drives a reporter to attend, and his conviction that she will attract crowds results in his writing articles about the revivalist; but she resists all his efforts to obtain information concerning the seven years of her life prior to opening the meeting-house. Hubbard, in obtaining an exclusive, promises to aid, but warns her that he will continue his efforts to unlock the secret of the seven years.

Another attracted to her meetings is Peter Brock, who gives up a vice-presidency in his firm to become her manager and promoter. She is uncertain whether he is the answer to a vision she has had of a man in her audience.

Two sets of state politicians endeavor to use her for their own political advantage, and although she refuses to support any political party, they maneuver her sermons to their advantage. She advocates equal rights, and is particularly eager to support the negro cause; this is controversial, and is made use of for political ends. At a final meeting, Hubbard discloses her secret, and she is denounced by the very people she is trying to help because they then understand that she has a black child and is striving to bring about the state of equality which will give him the opportunity to live in a white-dominated country.

Joey, the reformed thief, has murdered one of the prostitutes whom he believed to have forsaken Hallelujah by attending a bar in the neighborhood; and when he feels that he may be apprehended, he commits suicide. The early part of the book, where the prostitutes play a part in the mission, is not convincing; but when the political aspect and the attendant publicity become important, the story is much more interesting.

Apart from the vision of Hallelujah, there is no element of fantasy in this book, and even she doubts that it is more than a projection of her own mind; so I do not consider that this book qualifies as fantasy.

Packard, Frank L.

The Dragon's Jaws; Garden City, N. Y., Published for
The Crime Club, Inc. by Doubleday, Doran & Company, Inc.,
1937 310p.

Roy Melville goes to China to pay a million-dollar ransom to a mysterious Chinese master-criminal Lan Chao-tao for the safe return of his wealthy father. He meets on board ship Myrna Lang, whose father is murdered on ship-board by order of the same criminal, falls in love with her, and with her aid ultimately defeats him.

The title comes from a bronze dragon into whose mouth Roy thrusts a million dollars' worth of diamonds after Lan Chao-tao has refused to accept marked money for the ransom, and which secrets the diamonds until Roy can recover them.

This is an improbable mystery story with the usual elements of a "Jimmie Dale" story. I was unable to feel any particular sympathy with the characters or with the author, who quite apparently was writing a contrived story.

Penfield, Wilder

No Other Gods; Toronto, Little, Brown & Company (Canada)
Limited (1954) 341pp.

Apart from the re-telling of a few legends there is no element of fantasy in this religious novel, which is mainly a historical reconstruction of the life and times of Abram and Sarai.

Abram is shown first as a priest of Nannar who has no belief in the power of the idol. The daughter of the King of Ur, Shub-Kudur, falls in love with him and agrees to become the bride of Nannar and priestess of Ningal only if Abram is chosen to represent the god in the nuptial bed. Abram agrees, but only as a ruse to overthrow the idol, after which he escapes to a primitive tribe living in the Great Swamp where he enters into contemplation of his vision of the one great invisible god on the basis of which he establishes monotheism for his people the Habiru (or Hebrews).

His one love, despite the temptations of Shub-Kudur, is his half-sister Sarai who helps him to escape from Ur and is also capable of understanding him.

As a portrayal of Abram and his family, and the state of affairs in Ur at the time, this novel may be important, but it is not a particularly good novel and I do not consider it to belong in the fantasy field.

It appears in Day's "Supplemental Checklist".

Penfield, Wilder

The Torch; Boston and Toronto, Little, Brown and Company (1960) 370p.

In 432 B.C., Hippocrates returns to the island of Cos from the court of the King of Macedonia where he has been court physician, to teach a group of medical students and operate a clinic. He is called on to examine the daughter of an Archon, Timon, named Penelope, who is believed to be suffering from epilepsy (the sacred disease), but he feels that this is merely a form of hysteria brought on by the suggestions of her mother. He must also keep an eye on the son, a boxer being trained by his real father who had committed adultery, because of his mother's fear of insanity in her family.

Hippocrates falls in love with Daphne, daughter of a fellow-physician Euryphon, and who has been promised in marriage to the son of Timon. His rival Cleomedes tries to defeat him in physical combat, but Hippocrates who had been a wrestler in the Olympic games as a youth, manages to win, but befriends him. Cleomedes' mother Olympias, and his real father Buto, plot to burn Euryphon's library of medical manuscripts and blame Hippocrates, but the plot fails and Cleomedes dies in the fire while rescuing a child.

This is an interesting historical novel, and should be discussed as an example of why, although it is really fiction based on the history of science, it is not scientific because it contains no element of fantasy, apart from the historical idea that disease was caused by evil spirits.

Richler, Mordecai

Cocksure; New York, Bantam Books #N4390, (April, 1969)
(April, 1968, Simon and Schuster, Inc.) 216p.

The Star Maker, who controls movie, TV, and other industries, has manufactured synthetic stars, and has moved to England to take over a publishing business. Mortimer Griffin, employed by Oriole Press, is supervised by the Star Maker's emissary Dino Tomasso, named as the chief's heir. The Star Maker, of ambiguous sex, decides to replace Dino with Griffin.

Griffin is in some doubt concerning his sexual capacities, and this is reinforced when his wife deserts her usual hygienic standards to commit adultery with an unsavory friend. Griffin endeavors to re-awaken the spark with a negress and with a beautiful fellow employee Polly; but in the end, dismayed by discovering the nature of his employer, and horrified at the standards of the school which his son attends; and his wife's frankness concerning her sexual affairs with him, he starts drinking, and in the end the Star Maker sets out to kill him. Polly deserts him, and it is not clear whether she is one of the Star Maker's synthetics.

Richler is supposed to be one of the more important of modern Canadian novelists, but if this is a fair example of his work, modern fiction is not worth reading.

The Feet of the Furtive; New York, The Macmillan Company, 1925. (Originally published February, 1913) 384 pp.

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| 16. Red Dandy and MacTavish | |

These are primarily nature stories, with plots subordinated to the portrayal of incidents of wild life. The fantasy element is restricted to incidental comment on such things as instinctive knowledge or warning of danger, awareness without training, and other hints of the possibility of the supernatural. Roberts does not theorize, but contents himself with reporting.

1. Man and bear in forest fire. 2. "Whistling swans" fly north from the Everglades to nest. 3. Moose, bear and lynx strive for survival when staple food—rabbits—fails. 4. Man, moose, and wolves battle in country where wolves are unknown. 5. Chipmunk versus snake, fox and boys. 6. Salmon swimming upstream to spawn. 7. Bear and man versus wolves. 8. Castaway versus tiger. 9. Deep-sea life. 10. Farm girl in isolated cabin versus wolves, has aid of tamed moose. 11. The life of a bat. 12. The trials of a bull fur seal at mating time. 13. Fisher versus mother bear and cubs. 14. Leopard escaped from circus in Eastern Canada. 15. Mongrel versus fox. 16. Fawn saved by man repays his debt.

Although case could be prepared to argue the inclusion of this book in a fantasy library, I would not classify it as fantasy.

Roberts, Charles G. D.

The Kindred of the Wild: A Book of Animal Life; Many
Illustrations by Charles Livingston Bull; Boston, L. C. Page
& Company, 1902 374p.

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I read partly through (11) when I had to sell the book
to Norman Williamson. These are all nature stories, with no
encroachment on the fantasy field.

Roberts, Leslie

When the Gods Laughed; London, Sampson Low, Marston &
Co., Ltd., no date 282p.

Despite a prologue referring to the gods who mould men's destinies, there is no element of fantasy in this novel. It is a war novel about a Lieutenant who gets drunk while on duty and who re-enlists in his own unit as a private to prove himself a man. His sexual adventures are frankly related, in spite of his apparent devotion to the girl who has been his inspiration; and her own struggle to be true to him in the face of his renunciation of her is well depicted.

The style of narration is noteworthy for its economy and clarity, and the incidents of the story are apparently based on experience. I believe this book is above average for a Canadian war novel.

The Messiah of the Cylinder; Illustrated by Joseph
Clement Coll; Chicago, A. C. McClurg & Co., 1917 319p.

Anticipating "Brave New World" and "1984", this novel of England under a system of scientific socialism portrays the effects of "eugenic" selection, propaganda dissemination through textbooks and by means of telephone funnels or speakers which can be synchronized to motion pictures (thus anticipating talking pictures), control of the masses by classifying as "defectives" any who fail to accept the doctrines of the state and segregating them in workshops or in camps, and by telephones which are "tapped", and by central awareness of the financial status of everyone by credit control.

The story is narrated by Arnold Pennell, who, with Lazaroff is a researcher of the Biological Institute under the nominal direction of Sir Spofforth Moore, whose daughter Esther is loved by all three men. Herman Lazaroff is a materialistic scientist whose contempt for religious and aesthetic values leads him to experiment with suspended animation through "freezing" cylinders; and after being rejected as a suitor by Esther, he entraps Pennell and Esther in two of these and places himself in a third. Pennell is the first to emerge, in the year approximately 2015, in the story; though it transpires that Lazaroff had emerged 35 years before and established himself as the hidden scientific genius Sanson who controls the future world through the self-indulgent, but able Lembken, and is consequently 60 years of age when Esther and Arnold awaken, still in love and faithful to Esther and to his mad dream of a scientifically controlled world. Through Lembken, Sanson commands the Air Guard and the Ray, a weapon which annihilates any opposing force.

Unsuspecting that he has the role of messiah which prophecy has proclaimed will lead the masses to freedom from oppression, Pennell is befriended by an Air Guard named Jones, by David and his daughter Elizabeth, and by one of Boss Lembken's "playgirls", and manages to save Esther from Sanson when she awakens from the cylinder. His role is ineffectual and catalytic, rather than dynamic; and the mob overcomes Sanson and Lembken more through leaders who have been oppressed by Sanson and Lembken, the former's madness and the latter's indulgence contributing to their downfall.

The story is of little importance. As in "Looking Backward" by Edward Bellamy, the main interest is in portrayal of a future socialistic state through the eyes of a century-earlier man, Rousseau's being antipathetic to Bellamy's.

Saul, John Ralston

The Birds of Prey; Toronto, Macmillan of Canada (J. R.
Saul Trust, 1977) 247p.
Toronto, Totem (#222023), (1979) 247p.

Possibly because this is a story of international intrigue, a political murder mystery solved by Charles Stone, who is convinced that a plane crash over Reunion Island in the Indian Ocean was not just an accident, but intended to kill a General Ailleret who died with 18 innocent people.

His efforts to discover the plot and its perpetrators finally end with his being killed by the forces in France which brought about the downfall of de Gaulle. During his investigation he has casual sexual adventures with women, none of which appear to have any significance apart from identifying him with 007 and similar characters.

I found this rather dragging than suspenseful, perhaps because it is meaningless from my point of view. Political thrillers just don't appeal to me.

BIBLE STUDY
CHOOSE LIFE IN ITS FULLNESS

1. LIFE - EXISTENCE - A GIFT FROM GOD - THE CHOICE BEFORE US

SCRIPTURE: Genesis 1:27; Exodus 20: 13; Matthew 19: 16-19; Acts

COMMENT: In the beginning, God, the Creator, gave life. Existence is God's gift to all creatures. Not one of us has the ability to choose to be born; so in that particular sense, we cannot choose life. "The Spirit of God has made me, and the breath of the Almighty gives me life." (Job 33:4 RSV)

Our physical existence is a gift to be treasured at all times and in all circumstances and regarded with respect - a gift held in trust from our Creator. What implications does this truth have for our time with the threat of nuclear destruction of humankind?

There is yet another kind of life which each of us could either choose or reject. It is the spiritual life which Jesus offers. (John 14:5, 6; II Tim. 1:7)

Jesus was concerned also about the physical life of people whose health was impaired in any way. He set an example for the practical expression of care for others. He was concerned for the whole person. (John 10:7-10)

What does this mean in terms of modern science and technology - in regards to "birth rights" and the right to "die with dignity"?

11. CHOOSING 'LIFE' - A CONTINUING CHALLENGE

SCRIPTURE: Matthew 16:24-26; Luke 9:23, 24

COMMENT: The command to deny oneself and "take up the cross daily," is not a popular Christian teaching in our materialistic society. The choices we need to make about problems and issues vary from day to day, from country to country, from person to person, and are not resolved with quick and easy solutions. In spite of our sincere desire "to take up the cross" and make the right choices to follow Him, we frequently fail. How does a Christian deal with this? (See I John 1: 8, 9) How is love for Jesus expressed? (See John 21: 15-17) Matthew 25: 31-40 states that love needs to be expressed. Share practical ways in which our love may be expressed.

III. "I HAVE CHOSEN YOU"

SCRIPTURE: John 15: 12-17; Ephesians 1:3-4; I Peter 2: 9-10.

COMMENT: "You did not choose me: I chose you." Jesus states a profound truth in these words. That God, in His grace and great love, has chosen to redeem humankind and draw us to Him is a great wonder. The invitation to become partners with Him in creating and becoming a new community is exciting. What are some of the privileges of Jesus' chosen people? While we are chosen to enjoy many privileges, we are also called "to bear fruit." What does this mean? (See James 2:26)

" I H A V E C H O S E N Y O U " - " C H O O S E L I F E ! "

Scott, R. T. M.

Aurelius Smith—Detective; New York, E. P. Dutton &
Company (1927) 274p.

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These are well and concisely written detective stories, originally published in The American Magazine, Action Stories and Flynn's Magazine, and by the McClure Newspaper Syndicate. None can be classified as fantasy. In #3, Smith uses ventriloquism and the suggestion of hypnosis to influence a confession, and in #1 there is some talk of vibrations and foretelling the future; but even in these instances there is no suggestion of the actuality of the supernatural.

Although this volume deserves a place in any collection of detective and mystery fiction, it does not belong in a fantasy collection excepting as an associational item related to the fantasy books involving the same character.

Scott, R. T. M.

Murder Stalks the Mayor; New York, E. P. Dutton & Co.,
Inc. (1936) 280p.

Aurelius Smith, his secretary Bernice Asterley, and the newsboy Jimmie with his dog Lemon are engaged to protect the Mayor of New York from blackmail directed against his wife, and murder planned against himself by the political machine through a hired killer.

A night-club hostess attempts to vamp Smith; a newspaper columnist tries to fathom the plot against the mayor; the mayor is accused of murdering the columnist who is found dead in the mayor's billiard-room; Smith finds that the wife of a politician is the sister of the man whose name is linked with that of the mayor's wife, and that innocence is proved when an earlier letter reveals that a reference is to the name of a novel and not to the daughter of the mayor. All this is unravelled in the usual contrived manner of the complicated mystery plot, but aside from the suggested use of hypnosis there is no element of fantasy or occultism in this novel, which is a straight murder mystery.

There is nothing of permanent value in this book, apart from its being about Aurelius Smith and carrying on the tale of his operations.

Service, Robert W.

The Pretender; London, T. Fisher Unwin Ltd. (7th Impression, 1925) (1915) 310p.

This is the book which Andy Taylor insisted was fantasy and said he had read.

James ~~Horace~~ Madden, a writer of popular novels, decides to forgo fame and make his way, starting from scratch, as an unknown writer. In saying farewell to two ladies, he leaves the impression that he would marry them if possible. He then goes to Europe as a steerage passenger, becomes engaged to a youngest of three sisters, daughters of a wealthy man; closes the engagement by befriending a maid who, in turn, throws herself at him. He flees to Paris, then London, falls in love with a girl who feeds fleas, goes with her to Paris after marrying her to save her from suicide; becomes a writer, at first failing, then succeeding when he turns again to popular novels. With his first large cheque he purchases a car, concentrates on it until his wife believes that he has a mistress, dreams that he has lost her and married one of his suffragette friends, but awakens to married bliss.

In the chapter headed "That Muddle-Headed Santa Claus", Service writes an adaptation of O. Henry's "The Gift of the Magi", very obviously altered from the original.

Two of the stories Madden writes are outlined as "a last man on earth" theme and another fantasy theme; but these are the only fantasy elements in the book apart from the situation of a man with plenty of money practically starving and allowing his ailing wife to starve rather than draw on his alter ego's earnings.

Although I do not consider this to be a fantasy book, the elements of fantasy mentioned may be sufficient to allow it to be so classified.

Shaffer, Ivan

The Midas Compulsion; New York, Dell Publishing Co.,
Inc., (2nd Ptg., October, 1970); (1969, Sarang Holdings,
Ltd.); Dell #5622, \$1.25 300p.

Jackie Greenstein, stock promoter par excellence in Toronto, is beaten because he trusts a mine producer, and after losing a fortune gets a chance to recoup by promoting a gold mine in South Carolina. He falls in love with the daughter of the wealthy man on whose land the mine is located; this causes complications, not only with his wife and children but with his mistress in Toronto.

Much of the story deals with his promotional activities, including sex-parties held for salesmen and clients, but the impression given by the story and its incidents is summed up by the book's title. Every human consideration is secondary to the prime objective: to make money.

If the stock market fever is accurately portrayed in this novel, it would seem that a human being should have no interest in it, and would be well-advised to keep away from it. Market manipulations appear easy in spite of securities regulations, and in this novel Shaffer repeats what he said in his non-fiction book: the general public can only lose by speculating in penny mining stocks.

One reviewer described this as a "dirty" book. I agree. If this truly represents the life of a "big operator", it is no life for anyone who esteems his own self-respect.

Bibliographical Note: The first edition was published by McClelland and Stewart Limited, Toronto/Montreal in 1969, 365 pages \$6.95

Shaver, Richard Sharp

In Editors Efforts 1948-1949, Ray C. Higgs published two letters from Bob Farnham, the first a plea that Shaver be granted his constitutional right of free expression, and the second signed by Arthur Temby Janes (Bob Farnham) withdrawing his previous letter (published in the September issue of SPACEWARP) because of an article entitled LIFE in LOKI, Spring, 1948 issue. Farnham apologized to fandom and particularly to Ackerman, Rog Phillips, and James Russel Leary; and gave his address as 1139 East 44th St., Chicago 15, Illinois.

Stringer, Arthur

The Wolf Woman ; New York, A. L. Burt Company (The Bobbs-Merrill Company, 1928) 331p.

A primitive woods-waif saves the life of a millionaire, and agrees to mother his daughter's fatherless child if he will educate her and show her the ways of cities. From the wilds of northern Ontario, she goes to New York. The child is taken from her, dies; she falls in love with the man to whom her employer's daughter is engaged (but who was not the father of the child); they have a battle-royal over the death of the child. The man buys the northern camp from the millionaire, makes the wolf-woman manager of it, goes to it; his life is saved by the girl, they forgive and love.

This is not a fantasy novel, but a sort of Cinderella story, or Galatea yarn. It is only of average interest.

It is shown in Bleiler, but does not belong there.

Thistle, Mel

Peter The Sea Trout; Illustrated by Jean Donald Gow:
Toronto, The Ryerson Press (February, 1954) 177p.

This is the life-story over a period of 50 years of the title character.

The author attributes human characteristics and dialect in speech to the various crustaceans and fishes encountered by Peter, gives them the faculties of memory and dreaming, aspirations towards wisdom and beauty, and otherwise humanizes them. Although it is primarily a nature book, it is, because of these factors, a fantasy.

The book comes closer in tone to Clarke Venable's than to Pierre Custot's similar books, but is also aimed for the juvenile reader. It is interesting, and probably accurate in its factual presentation. The scene is mainly eastern Canada, including Newfoundland.

van Vogt, A. (Fred) E. (Lton)

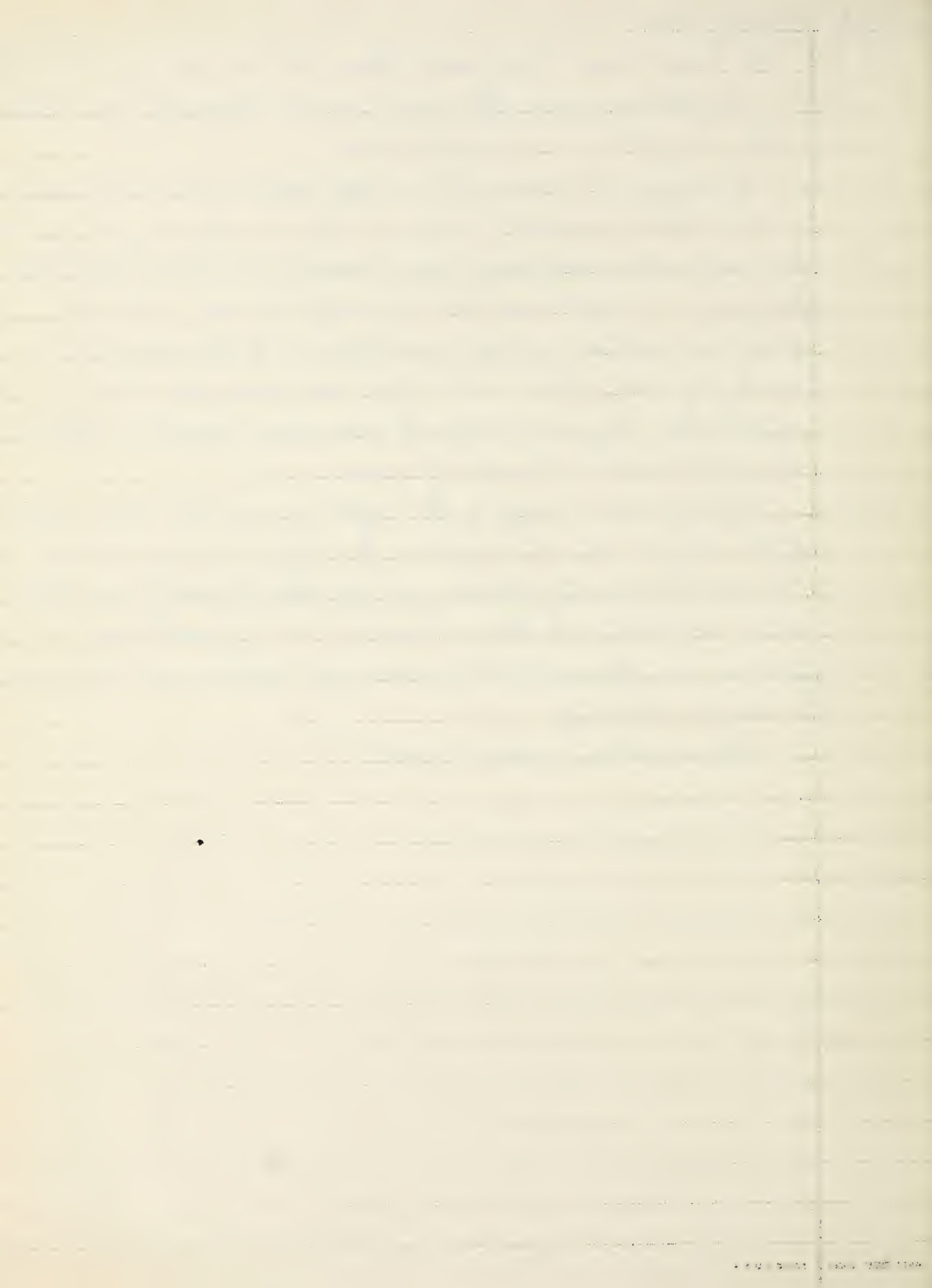
"The Violent Man"; New York, Farrar, Strauss and Cudahy (1962) 375pp

With the assistance of a fairly extensive bibliography, van Vogt has written his first non-science fiction novel.

A group of non-communists are kept isolated under the domination of a communist commandant - a Chinese who is endeavoring to convert them by indoctrination instead of brain-washing. In him, Leal Ruston recognizes a "right" man like himself: one who is absolutely convinced of his own rectitude and who cannot bear to be thwarted. Such men are highly sexed; their relationships with women place them in the master-roles: they must be free to seek sexual satisfaction, but cannot bear to be denied or thwarted by women.

Probably this concept of the "right" man is the main interest of the story to the science-fiction fan. Psychologically and intellectually, the novel is interesting, but one can feel little sympathy with Ruston, whose self-centred existence leaves one more sympathetically inclined towards some others of the characters, who, however inferior in importance react more humanly.

This is not an important novel.



Walters, Harry McDonald

Wesblock: The Autobiography of an Automaton; London and Toronto, J. M. Dent & Sons Limited, 1914 172p.

I purchased this book because of its sub-title years ago, but on glancing through it was unable to find anything which might indicate it to be fantasy or science fiction. Seeing it listed as the latter on Page 12 of CDM SF&F, I have read it.

"Automaton" is merely the author's term for "Civil Servant". The book is ostensibly the fictional autobiography of John H. Wesblock, Jr., a sickly lad whose education was poor, partly because of ill health, but mainly because of inattention and dislike of his teachers. Marrying a young girl when just out of his teens, he was employed in a lumber mill, became a gambler on his return to Montreal, accumulated upwards of \$20,000 thus, and lost it all and went into debt by speculating in wheat. Doing odd accounting jobs and a little writing, he became accountant for a fur-dressing establishment, helped try to promote an invention, and losing money for a friend at this, determined that a civil service job, like that of his mother's father, was more suitable for a family man. Promised \$1500. a year, he was given a minor post at \$2.00 a day, Sundays included, moved to Ottawa on borrowed money, and supported his family on this, plus a small amount derived from writing, for four years. He was then granted the \$1500. a year, and was making \$2500. a year fifteen years later, at the age of fifty, when he decided to write his autobiography.

This is an interesting book, and is probably an accurate portrayal of life in Montreal and environs, and in Ottawa in the late 19th and early 20th centuries. It concludes that the civil service and its personnel cannot be better than the political masters, or the people, it serves.

There are only two references to fantasy elements in this book. The first, on Page 8, describes a psychological phenomenon which occurred during the ostensible writer's seventh year during a bout of scarlet fever. In delirium, "I seemed to be two personalities, distinct but attached, and capable of observing the other. I strove and argued continually with myself..." The second, on Page 35, "I even spent some months over the curious pseudo-science of astrology". These are merely incidents of mundane life, and in no way serve to characterize the book as qualified for consideration in the fantasy field.

I am sending a copy of this page of notes to John Ball as my suggestion that this book should be deleted from the revised Bibliography Northern Visions.

Williamson, David

The Bad Life; Winnipeg, Queenston House (1975, Author) 174p.

An unpretentious, autobiographical novel of events in the life of a young university graduate in the year 1957 in Winnipeg, this story is told with quiet humor and mainly in dialogue.

Although I am the character named Linus Chuntley, and I can recall the events and recognize the characters described in Chapter 3, my memory fails to recall my involvement in the Rebellion as described beginning on page 158. Dave's description of the events of that evening suggests the possibility of my having imbibed enough to cause amnesia, however, so I cannot contradict his statements.

I must admit that I am pleasantly surprised by this novel. It is clearly and simply told, and I had assumed that Dave would use the murky, involved language of James Joyce.

Aside from the characters whom Dave met in my home, I do not recognize any. His depiction of Eleanor Shingle is imaginative rather than veridical, but the basis is sound.

I consider "The Interviews" (Chapter 13) to be the best in the book, but the whole novel is one of the most enjoyable I have read in recent years. I do not think that this is because I am acquainted with Dave, or because he was sufficiently interested in me and "The Club" to use us as part of the background; although it is quite possible that my interest was enhanced because I was looking for references of things familiar to me. I think that I was most delighted by the simplicity and humanity of Dave's story; only the Rebellion struck me as a trifle forced, and I may be wrong in thinking that it was entirely imaginary.

This is a light, humorous novel, and not an important book in any respect; but it very definitely proves Dave to have gained a mature and natural story-telling ability, and if he can continue to portray people and their day-to-day life as accurately in his future work, he may become an important novelist.

Again, I was very pleasantly surprised.

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Again, I was very pleasantly surprised.

Williamson, Dave

Running Out; Winnipeg, Queenston House Publishing Co.
Ltd. (1987, author) 206p.

At 45 George Beatty, a journalist and book reviewer, is married to Marie; they have two children, a boy and a girl. The boy is a poor student; George consults his teacher and falls in love with her. In order to commit adultery with her, he takes up jogging and becomes a midnight jogger (the first three chapters were originally published as a short story in Winnipeg Stories, and a dramatization was made as a TV program).

Coming under suspicion as a burglar because a man near the scenes of burglaries is seen running away, George tries genuine jogging, but comes home exhausted. On vacation at a beach near Gimli, the family has neighbors as guests, and the neighbor's wife confesses to a liason with her son's football coach, and embraces George as a substitute. After the vacation, George conspires with his son's teacher to falsify his grading so that he can pass, and continues the liason, though with less intensity.

Restless and dissatisfied, George asks the school teacher to run away to California with him. The teacher's parents are living in California, so she accepts his offer during Christmas holidays. George leaves a note and a cheque for \$2000. for his wife, but does not tell her where he is going.

The teacher and George and the teacher's daughter (she is divorced; the daughter is a child) go in a house trailer which has engine trouble on the way. George is sexually frustrated; at her parents' home they are accommodated in separate beds; George rents a motel room at \$100. per day, but events prevent him from assignations with the teacher. Only once during the vacation are they alone for enjoyment.

Back in Winnipeg, Marie suspects him of a liason with the wife of the neighbor they had as guests at the beach; does not suspect the teacher. Separation is, however, maintained; for years George visits his children; the son and a girl take up a common law housekeeping, and the girl is pregnant, the son a shiftless irresponsible boy who has only a part time job and requires financial assistance from George; the daughter is a beauty, but wants an expensive education; George is unable to settle down to his journalistic work because he is tired from house repairs, time spent with his mistress and his ex-wife and family, and maintaining his own poor room. Patiently and despairingly he accepts his lot as payment for his transgressions.

This is a bawdy and humorous novel, entertaining but of no importance apart from illustrating a modern life style.

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CELEBRATING
THE FIRST QUARTER CENTURY
1962-1987
LE PREMIER QUART DE SIÈCLE
Ç A S É F Ê T E !

FirstCity Trust

Williamson, David 3.

Shandy; Winnipeg, Queenston House Publishing Co. Ltd.;
(1980, publishers) 265p.

Richard Page, advertising executive in Winnipeg of a national clothing retailer, is 42 years old with a wife and two daughters. At a convention he meets a liberated young woman and her group, and has an affair with her which leads to correspondence which he carries on through a mailing address of a friend. The girl is located in Toronto and has helped him with a presentation at the conference.

The correspondence lapses until he receives a letter suggesting that they meet in England, where he had not been a visitor since boyhood when he met the sister of a novelist in Nottingham where Page had relatives. This girl had shown a sexual interest and was beautiful; he had fond memories of her and wished to see her again.

A neighbor and his wife accompanied the Pages for a summer vacation weekend when the neighbor suggested wife-swapping. Page was shocked, but tantalized by the behavior of an unmarried young couple sleeping in a pup-tent nearby.

The Pages had allowed their erotic activity to lessen, but the wife Ruth said she would like another child, even though their two girls were now teenagers. Christmas lights were left on the house, and used by Ruth to signal "funtime" as a welcome for Richard.

Before leaving for England, Richard was notified that he might be demoted in favor of a younger man, but granted the trip so he could consider his future. His wife became pregnant, but Richard's sexual interest in the young girl from Toronto and the excitement of her liberated life-style made him consider staying in England with her, leaving his wife and family and his uninviting job.

In England, Richard visits an aunt and is invaded in his wife's home by the young girl, who attacks him sexually and is discovered by the aunt, who banishes Richard and accuses him of betraying his wife and family.

The young girl gets involved with the Nottingham novelist and his mistress; Richard learns that his boyish sweetheart died of drowning and that her daughter is a prostitute in Amsterdam. He seeks out the daughter who is beautiful like her mother, pays her for an assignation, and returns to England feeling that his fling is over and that he is eager to return to his wife.

Arriving home, his neighbor meets him, drops him off at his home where the Christmas decorations are blazing; Richard searches the house for Ruth, but discovers his neighbor's wife. The book ends on that note.

The vanity and stupidity of middle-age crisis in a man's life is demonstrated amusingly in this novel, which concentrates on people and their problems and the changes in society's standards over a generation. (see over)

FirstCity Trust

Although well printed and edited, I noticed two errors:

Page 56, clambered a.b. clamored

" 220, delapidated a.b. dilapidated

Young, Phyllis Brett

Psyche; New York, Lancer Books (1964)
Putnam, 1959

288p.

A child, kidnapped at the age of 3, is left on the doorstep of a miner and his wife who care for her with love and kindness until she is 19. Attacked by a son of the mine superintendant, she wounds him and consequently has to leave home. An artist paints her and takes care of her for four months, makes love to her, then sends her to a welfare home. She refuses their stinted care, loses her money, and is sheltered by a "madame", taught by a teacher who lives in the house but commits suicide, is struck by a truck, cured by a brain specialist who by hypnotic suggestion gets on the track of her childhood and background, but from whose home of luxury she flees when she realizes the hatred between the doctor and his wife, becomes a cashier in a restaurant where a reporter who has seen a picture of her real mother tracks down her identity and returns her to her parents.

This is an interesting novel, improbable in its efforts to demonstrate how an illiterate could, in a short time, make up for lack of teaching and training, but otherwise a good portrayal of a girl's search for identity.

It is not a fantasy novel.

